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PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

T.V. SPORTS

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THE FANS CHOOSE WRESTLING'S BEST

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HULK HOGAN

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RODDY PIPER
STEVE WILLIAMS
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JIM CORNETTE
THE BARBARIAN

PLUS—1985: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

THE ROAD WARRIORS

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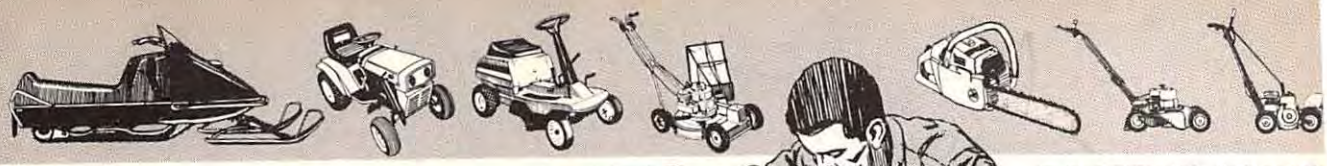
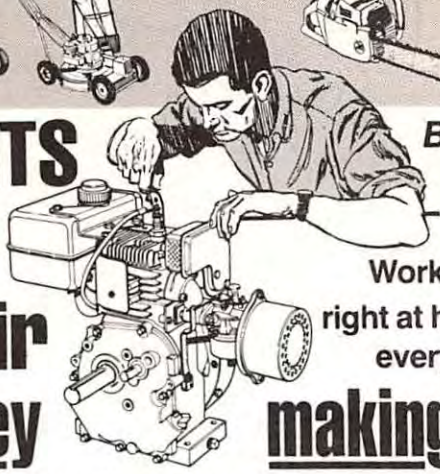


Get in on the PROFITS in SMALL ENGINE service and repair



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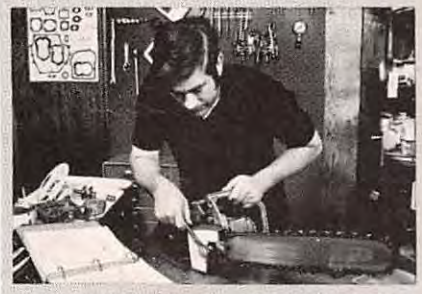

Because the small engine industry has grown so quickly, an acute shortage of qualified Small Engine Professionals exists throughout the country. In fact, it's not unusual for a good small engine man to be three to four weeks behind in the summer and at least a week behind in the winter. When you see how many small engines are in use today, it's easy to understand why qualified men command such high prices — as much as $49.95 for a simple tune-up that takes less than an hour!

65-million small engines are in service today!

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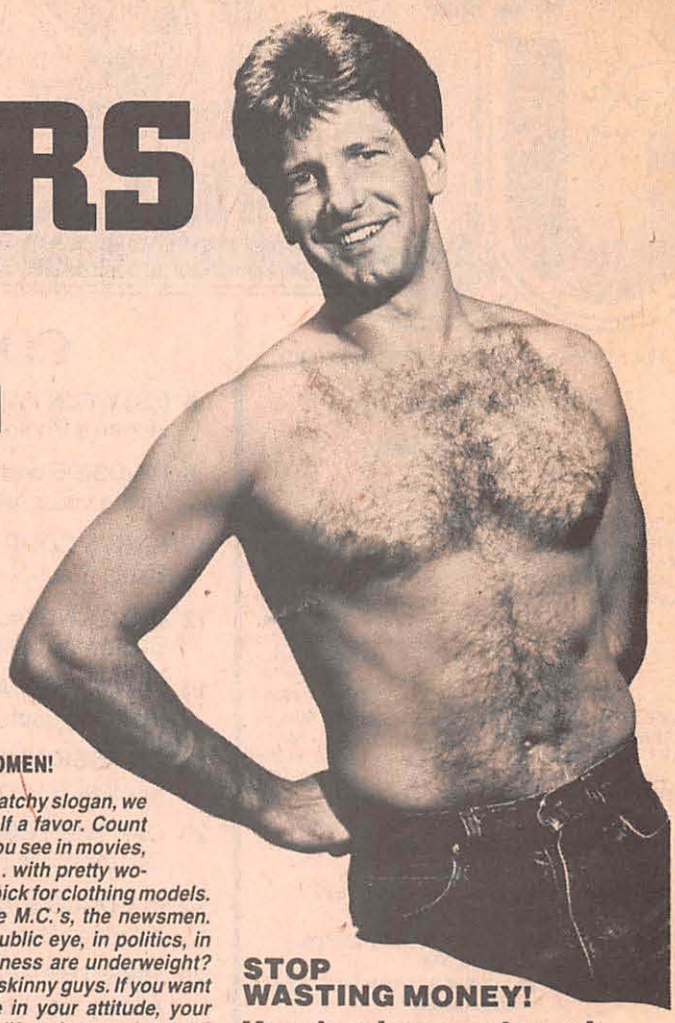
I TRIED FOR YEARS TO GAIN WEIGHT



It wasn't easy until now!

That's what so many men are saying after using *ShapeUp*, the marvelous, new compound, especially formulated by nutritionists, sports dietitians and biochemists for the sole purpose of helping men to more healthful, sturdier and better developed bodies.

MACHO MEN HAVE MORE FUN

Women are not excited by men who are skeletons. They like men of form and substance. They like men who look good in their clothes and out. They like men who look like men. If you are one of those who knows this and have been trying in vain to do something about it, this is your lucky day. Your search is ended. Your body is about to embark on a trip to its ideal shape and form. *ShapeUp* is here to shape you up . . . and we mean it sincerely. You are about to gain weight . . . and not just flab, but the right amount in the right places. You'll see!

SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

GAIN WEIGHT! GAIN WOMEN!

If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with ShapeUp *working for you.*

LOOK BETTER AND FEEL BETTER WHILE YOU GAIN

In these times when women are free to express themselves and pick and choose their men, you don't need a handicap . . . especially when it's so easy to put yourself in the forefront of competition. Why not look your best? And you will if you feel your best. And you'll feel your best when you gain the kind of nutrition that builds your body to its highest potential. Everyone knows that a healthy body brings a healthy mind and the kind of outlook that makes you want to kick up your heels . . . and go out and lick the world. Yes, with ***ShapeUp***, you give yourself a super-lift of confidence, built into its wondrous formula, that's compounded to perk you up and give you a winning attitude.

STOP WASTING MONEY!

Here's a low-cost way!

Some fellows, who've been trying hard to gain weight, resort to all sorts of methods to do so: professional exercise sessions, costly nutritional regimens, large investments in health foods, time-consuming weight-building programs. Yet, here, at an extremely affordable price, you are offered a product so elementary, so easy-to-take, yet so effective we offer it to you without any greater effort than filling out and mailing a coupon. You don't even have to go to a store for it. And unlike any other method, product, means or procedure, we GUARANTEE *ShapeUp* to the point of total freedom from risk of any kind.

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Your money back without any strings whatsoever. Try *ShapeUp* for 30 days. It does as we say or you get a full refund.

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☐ **Send me the 60-Tablets size for $12.75**

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THE FASTEST, EASIEST

$100,000

You'll Ever Make in Your Life, Yours *Now*

- WITHOUT A PENNY OF INVESTMENT
- WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR HOME
- WITHIN 90 DAYS
- "WORKING" ABOUT ONE HOUR A DAY (OR EVENING)

There are all kinds of ways to make money. Good golly, Molly — if anyone knows that, I do! For the past 20+ years I've concentrated on finding, investigating, creating and specifically singling out only the very finest legal and ethical methods for carving out a mass of wealth in a hurry. But believe me, in all those years never have I experienced anything remotely as exciting as this one!

Recently, I came across a fairly new way to make big bux, but after a thorough study I discarded it because it required too much investment of time, money and personal effort. But my study did serve as inspiration to develop yet another fantastic and unusual wallet-fattener — **something that until now has never been done** — yet fully complies with the tough set of standards I'm noted for demanding of *any* potential wealth-producing concept:

- Must be able to be started with **minimum investment**
- Must be possible to **start at home** and not interfere with family life.
- Must be able to be started and **run initially by one man or woman**
- Must require only a **few hours of spare time per week**
- Must have realistic annual profit potential of **$40,000 or more**

Well, this one goes way beyond my usual rigorous test. Get this: This extra-ordinary money-maker® allows you to:

- Start at once — **within 30 seconds** of studying my report
- Invest **not a single cent**
- Accomplish everything **without leaving your home** — heck, you can do it from your favorite easy chair whilst eating pizza or petting the dog (or vicey versey!)
- Have a potential **net profit** (not gross ... **net!**) of $100,000.00 by the end of 90 days — tops. And that's **cash**, not theoretical or paper profits.

Naturally, you're wondering what all this is — but I'm not going to tell you here. No, it's going to cost you ten smackers to find out. But I will tell you what it *isn't* so you'll not be off on some wild goose chase:

- ★ No sex or off-color stuff
- ★ No chain letter, pyramid or multi-level scam
- ★ No mail order, envelope stuffing or drop-shipping
- ★ No writing or self-publishing how-to stuff
- ★ No loan brokerage scheme
- ★ No stocks, commodities, real estate, etc.
- ★ No gambling, betting or wagering
- ★ No arts, crafts or special skills
- ★ No party-plan, door-to-door or phone selling
- ★ No catalogs, mailing lists, postage, etc.
- ★ No equipment to buy or rent
- ★ No bothering friends, relatives, etc.
- ★ Not anything you have ever seen advertised anywhere

For the past two decades Du Vall has captured the imagination of men and women the world over by providing solid, unique direction for their quest for financial freedom. His firm is headquartered in Michigan with international marketing offices in Hong Kong (known as DAX International, John W. Lane, President). In addition to producing some three dozen publications on money-making/self-improvement themes, DuVall is also the creator of the popular Derek Dax adventure/mystery/romance series and the author of the political intrigue novel, "The Big Dream" (published by Lyle Stuart, Inc., New York). Unlike most, he has never had to resort to outlandish money-back guarantees to attract only the finest DAX-DOERS worldwide and no such policy is expressed or implied.

His writings have been used in numerous style and content workshops and accredited courses at such institutions as California State University, UCLA, Fordham, University of Illinois and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

WHO CAN DO IT

Anyone with even a smidgen of ambition.

WHAT IS REQUIRED

Other than my step-by-step detailed report ... nothing. I have thought long and hard about it; A person virtually without a shirt on their back or a pot to plant petunias in could do it. You will of course, have to put my plan into motion — but that's both fun and easy and totally accomplished from the comfort of your own home. (By the way, no one will be coming to your home, either.)

Finally, let me make this clear: Once you have my report, **that is all you need to get going!** I have nothing else to sell you for this deal. Your purchase of this extraordinary report is NOT a "foot in the door" to get you to buy some extra or expensive "course" or whatever ... this is all you need from me!

WANT PROOF?

We have over 10,000 'tasty testimonials' from housewives, doctors, lawyers, layed-off factory workers—all sorts of good people. These excerpts sum up their feelings:

"Thanks a million times . . . you have proved 100% accurate in what you said in your advertisement. Doing this work is so easy! I sometimes work while in bed. Should you come up with another ingenious thing, please let me know.
Mohidin Mohammed, Sweden

"We are so impressed . . . have our 13 and 16 year olds involved . . . thanks for giving our family new hope."
MacClear Family, Indiana

". . . man in economically depressed area left $35,000 secure job to put this method to work . . . made $120,000. First man I've ever met who really made money on idea purchased through mail." David Roman, Editor, ROMAN REPORTS, Ohio

WHAT TO DO NOW

You've got two choices:

1. Put this ad aside, wait 90 days or so and perhaps lose your chance at $100,000.
2. Do the only sensible thing. Send me the ten bux and get started on wearing in that path to the bank.

Nifty Bonus!

A few months back in our DAX MONEY-MAKER® CONFIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER, we reported on another business that can easily net $1,000 a week for life. It's a bit more involved and does require getting out and about, but our readers were so delighted with it that I'm including it as an extra **free bonus** when you order our new special DAX report, "$100,000 in 90 Days."

P.S. One more thing (say, this Du Vall is a windy so and so, isn't he!). There are lots of people right now in bad financial straits. I hope you're not one of them, but if you are, having read this ad you now have absolutely no excuse for being broke, because as the saying goes, "This is it!" This could truly be the once-and-for-all solution to any money miseries you have. I guess you'll have to take my word for it until you receive these fabulous reports — but if it eases your mind any, over 1,000,000 men and women worldwide have been, over the years **repeat buyers** of my books, courses, reports, cassette tape programs and newsletters. There must be a reason . . .

— Dean F. V. Du Vall

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BETWEEN FALLS

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED welcomes readers' comments on any of our stories or columns. Send your letters to:

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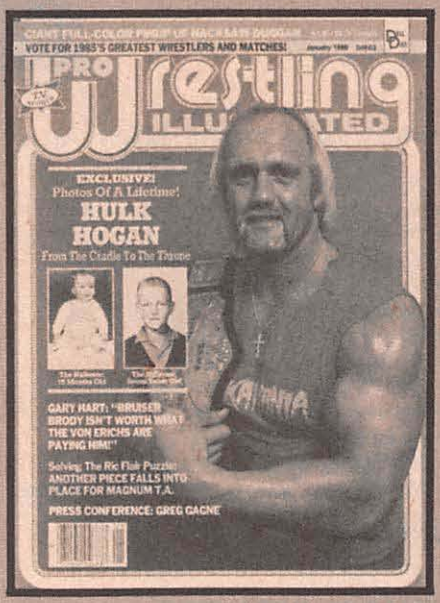
HOGAN'S PHOTO ALBUM

Once again *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* has gone and proven that it is the greatest wrestling magazine in the world, bar none.

I'm talking about the cover story in the January 1986 issue that gave us a glimpse into the early years of WWF World champion Hulk Hogan ("Exclusive—Photos Of A Lifetime! Hulk Hogan: From The Cradle To The Throne"). As Billy Crystal might say, "It was mah-valous!"

The cover alone was a thing of beauty. It has to be the best picture of Hogan that I've ever seen. The color photo, I'm talking about; the black and white photos were great, too, and just whetted my appetite for what was inside—five pages of rare, never-before-seen photos of Hogan growing up. What a treat! And he was such a cute baby! It's no wonder he grew into the hunk that he is today!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Wrestling
ILLUSTRATED
EXCLUSIVE!
Photos Of A Lifetime!
HULK
HOGAN
From The Cradle To The Throne
GARY HART: "BRUISER BRODY ISN'T WORTH WHAT THE VON ERICHS ARE PAYING HIM!"
Solving The Ric Flair Puzzle: ANOTHER PIECE FALLS INTO PLACE FOR MAGNUM T.A.
PRESS CONFERENCE: GREG GAGNE

I want to thank everyone at *PWI* for a superb job. Every time I think it's impossible for you folks to outdo yourselves, there you go topping yourselves once again. Keep up the great work!

LINDA O'CONNOR
New York

Come on, guys, can't you do any better than that? I mean, if I want to look at baby pictures I'll go over to my mother's house. I don't have to spend a hard-earned $1.95 to see Hulk Hogan's bare baby behind revealed by his little puppy dog.

Frankly, I think printing that feature on Hulk Hogan and his baby pictures is stooping pretty low, particularly for a magazine of *PWI*'s stature. Look: Would *Newsweek* print a cover story featuring baby photos of Ronald Reagan? Darn right they wouldn't.

You compared your story to those of *Playboy* and *Penthouse* magazines printing photos of Madonna. I agree with the comparison—those two rags were stooping pretty low, too, when they did what they did.

I expect better from *PWI*, and usually I get it. But not this time.

RICHARD KELSEY
Philadelphia

ENOUGH ON THE VON ERICHS!

I have been a wrestling fan since childhood and have followed the sport on television and in the magazines. One magazine I always buy is *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*. But please, let me buy just *one* magazine without some article on the precious Von Erichs. I like good guys, too, but there *are* others: Manny Fernandez, Jimmy Valiant, and Dusty Rhodes, to name a few.

BRADLEY BOOHER
Blountville, TN

A DISGUSTING SIGHT

I was very shocked and enraged when I watched WTBS' *World Championship Wrestling* on October 12; I couldn't believe my eyes.

Ric Flair had just won a cage match with Nikita Koloff. When Ric Flair's hand was raised in victory, Nikita, Ivan Koloff, and Krusher Khrushchev attacked him. Then, to the crowd's excitement, Dusty Rhodes came to Flair's aid, beating up the Russians and throwing them out of the cage. All of a sudden, Flair yelled something at Dusty. Then Ole and Arn Anderson came behind Dusty and attacked him. Flair got up and joined them! Ric took Dusty's ankle, jumped on it, and put him in a figure-four leglock.

The crowd was shocked! How could he do something like that after he helped him from almost getting killed? Dusty was in shock and pain. Doctors examined him, and Dusty had a broken ankle. I can't understand why Flair did

(Continued on page 72)

THE ORIGINAL

SUPERSTAR® PRO WRESTLING GAME "PROMOTER'S DREAM" EDITION

RINGSIDE SEAT

Now you can have a ringside seat to the greatest pro wrestling matches of all time! Experience all the action of live matches right in your very own home! It's true — only you can sanction Title Defenses and no-holds-barred Texas Death matches! For added excitement, arrange Tag Teams, Battle Royals and Steel Cage grudge matches! It's up to you to determine the world champion of the Superstar Wrestling Federation!

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We get lots of mail, tons of it! And almost everybody says the same thing: "You left out ActionCards for my favorite wrestlers . . . Please make ActionCards for these wrestlers '" . . . We get the point! There are hundreds and hundreds of professional wrestlers, both past and present (not to mention the future). We thought about the dilemma and our staff finally came up with the solution . . .

ANYTHING GOES

We're unleashing the "Promoter's Dream Edition." We designed 60 new ActionCards utilizing our unique and copyrighted "game-system." But here's the kicker . . . now you can fill in the names of your favorite wrestlers on the ActionCards!!! As promoter, you can now create your ultimate tag-teams!!! You can even turn yourself and your friends into professional wrestlers!!!

ACTIONCARDS

Players have the opportunity to imagine themselves as the big-time promoter, the mischievous manager and especially a world famous wrestler!

Each of the 60 ActionCards are rated for ability in singles matches as well as tag-team matches. The data is computer-generated and based on the ring performances of professional wrestlers. You decide on your favorite wrestler's skill level (or your own, for that matter) and label your cards accordingly.

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Address _____

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RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

NWA champion Ric Flair and AWA champion Rick Martel seem to be considering what it would be like to possess both world title belts. The two men recently wrestled a historic match in Tokyo.

THE BIGGEST NEWS this month—and possibly of the year—was the October 21 match in Tokyo between NWA World champion **Ric Flair** and AWA World champion **Rick Martel**. 10,900 people jammed Ryogoku Kokugikan Arena to witness this historic match, which is reported in detail by correspondent **Koichi Yoshizawa**: The match was scheduled for one fall with a 60-minute time limit. Both men wrestled at the peak of their form, exchanging holds and maneuvers, with neither man gaining a clear advantage. At roughly the 20-minute mark, Martel surprised Flair by applying the figure-four leglock, but Flair escaped the hold by reaching for the ropes. When Martel missed a flying kneedrop, Flair moved in and placed a figure-four of his own on Martel. Martel escaped, then moved in with a blizzard of blows to Flair's head, finally breaking open a wound on the NWA champion when he hurled Flair into the steel ringpost. Seeing blood, Martel began a brawling attack and went for a pin, which Flair escaped as the referee's hand was just about an inch or two from hitting the mat for a third time. Martel went outside the ropes to try his flying vault maneuver, but Flair raised his knees as Martel came close to the mat. Flair moved to the top rope for a flying bodypress, but Martel caught the champion in midair and the two men went careening backward through the ropes. They battled furiously outside the arena floor as the referee counted both men out of the ring at the 34:31 mark.

The Florida wrestling scene has heated up since **Barry Windham** made his return to the area. Barry had been on a vacation trip to the Sunshine State to watch his brother, **Kendell Windham**, wrestle in a tag team match in Tampa with their father, **Blackjack Mulligan**. Barry had no intention of getting involved in the match, but when Kendell and Blackjack's opponents, **Kevin Sullivan** and **Maya Singh**, went on an uncontrollable attack of not only Windham and Mulligan, but also **Lady Maxine**, who was standing at ringside, Barry could stand by no longer. He had to run in to stop the slaughter.

Maya Singh (formerly known as Bob Roop) sadistically slashes Blackjack Mulligan's forehead to bloody ribbons with a piece of barbed wire. Blackjack's son, Barry Windham, would run into the ring to save him.

That incident proved to be just an omen of things to come: Several

(Continued on page 62)

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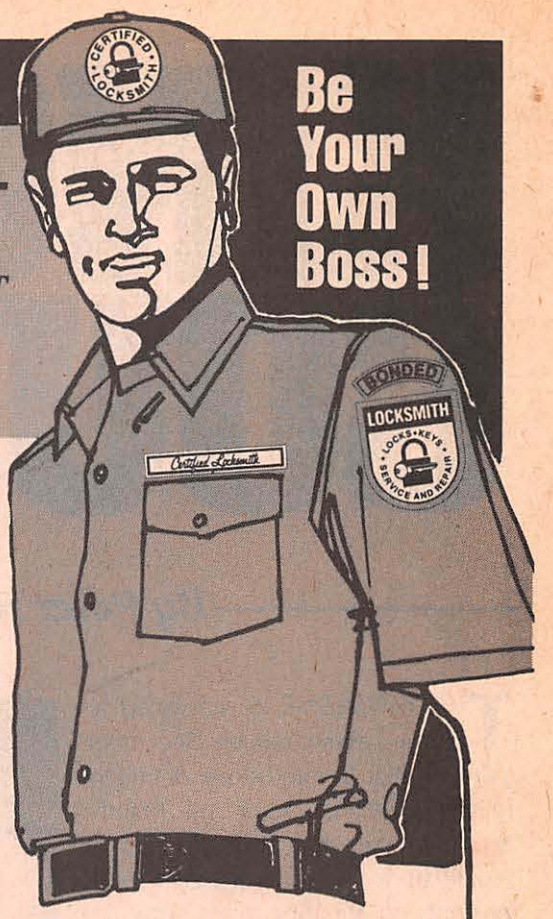

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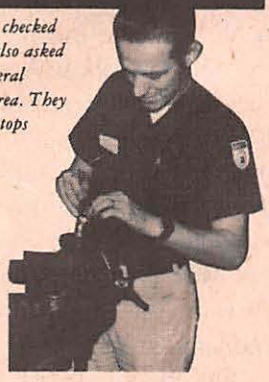

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KING'S COURT

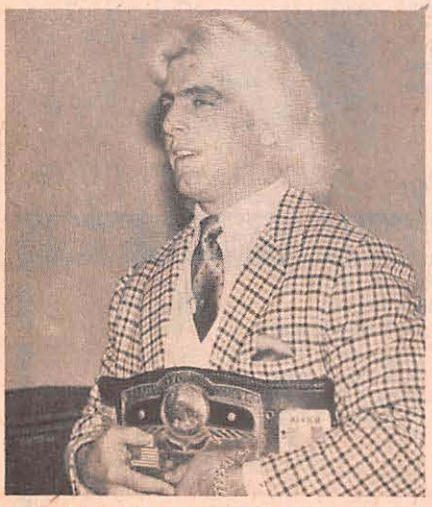
By Peter King

WWF head Vince McMahon has changed the face of professional wrestling over the past year with many unusual and offbeat promotions. But too many of his gimmicks border on tastelessness.

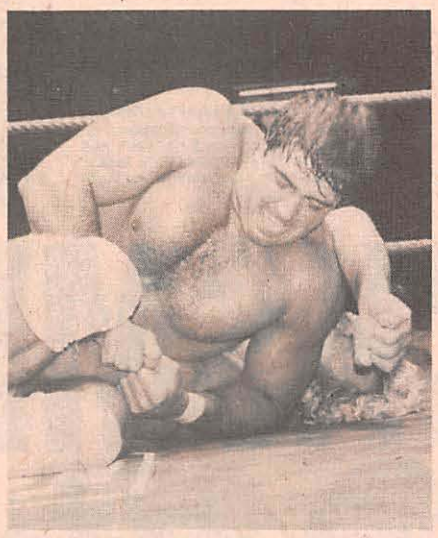
THIS MAGAZINE IS scheduled to hit the newsstands on December 24. With that in mind, I am definitely in the Christmas spirit this month. So much so, that I've decided it would be a good idea to give some presents to the fine folks who are involved in wrestling. But what do you give people who have everything already? I think I've found a few specialty gifts that will come in handy next year. I've got my Christmas sack right in front in of me, so let's take a look inside.

For Hulk Hogan: Ric Flair's talent, so you can be a complete champion.

For Ric Flair: Hulk Hogan's rabid fan support, so you can be a complete champion.



NWA World heavyweight champion Ric Flair clutches the coveted 10 pounds of gold. Imagine if Flair had the same fan support as WWF World heavyweight champion Hulk Hogan!



AWA World champion Rick Martel locks up Nick Bockwinkel during a title defense in Atlantic City. Imagine if Martel faced the variety of opponents that both Flair and Hogan do!

For Rick Martel: A better grade of opposition, so you can be a complete champion.

For Paul Orndorff: A one-way ticket out of the WWF, so you can become a big star again.

For Sgt. Slaughter: A one-way ticket *to* the WWF, so you can become a big star again.

For Fritz Von Erich: A year of health for you and your family, and most of all, a year free of tragedy.

For Jim Cornette: A new personality, you wimp.

For Tommy Rich: A chance to set the clock back to 1979.

For Vince McMahon (who already has a sense of smell to sniff out big-money promotions, and a sense of touch to pull them off): A sense of taste.

For Verne Gagne: A star so explosive and marketable that he's worth the aggravation, time, and money to promote him properly.

For Andre the Giant and Dusty Rhodes: A one-year gift subscription to *Weight Watchers* magazine.

For Adrian Adonis: A lifetime gift subscription to *Weight Watchers,* and a size 82, industrial-strength, official Abdullah the Butcher-model bra.

For Rick Steamboat: A return to the basics so your career can get back on track, because, quite frankly, this Karate Kid stuff ain't working.

For Barry Windham: Happiness and contentment working in Florida.

For Mike Rotundo: A tag team partner with the popularity of Barry Windham—fast—before you drop into the abyss of WWF also-rans.

For Gorilla Monsoon: A copy of *How To Improve Your Vocabulary,* so you can limit yourself to using the same cliches no more than five times in each broadcast. And a special bonus present: The knowledge that when you say a wrestler "has *literally* been on the shelf for six

(Continued on page 64)

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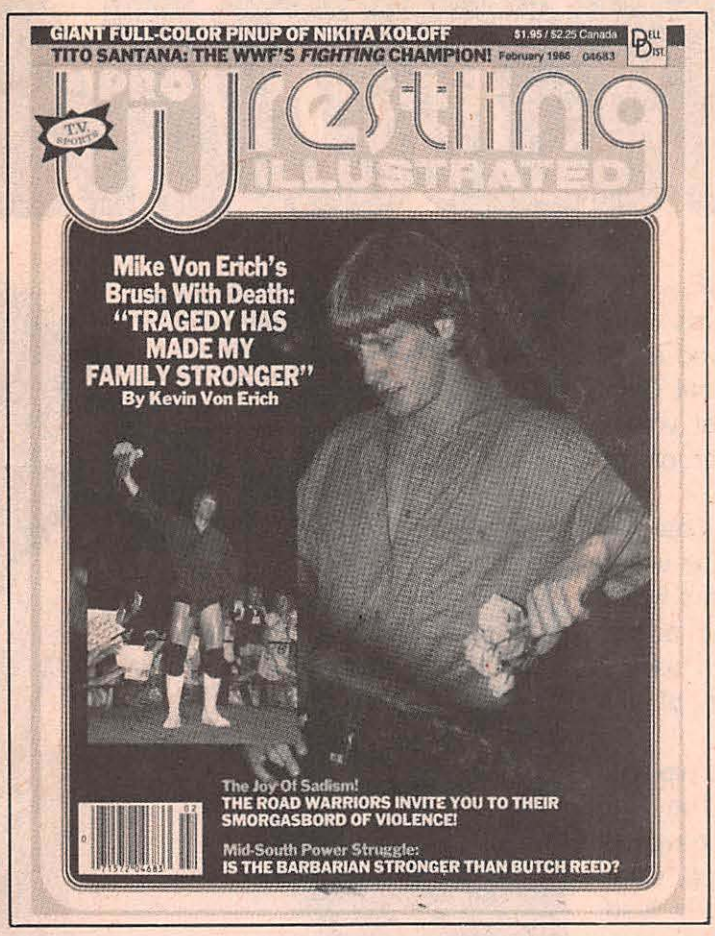
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DRESSING ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

By Stu Saks

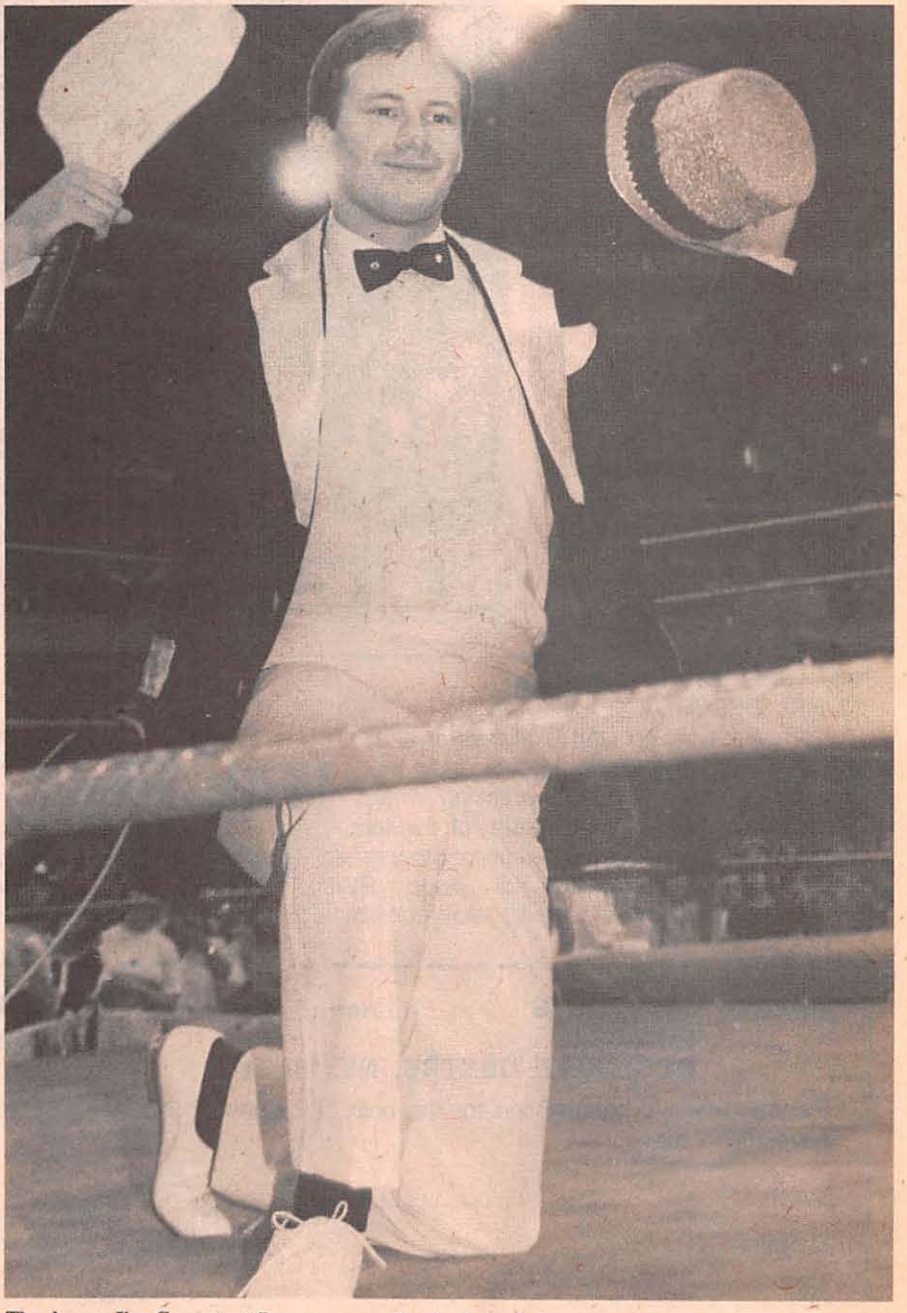
MOMENTS BEFORE THE *PWI* year-end awards were to be made final, I received a call from our Mailing Fulfillment Chief Artie Esposito that almost voided the selection of Manager of the Year.

We were down to the final day of tabulations. Although the voting in six of the nine categories would be considered close, the editors had projected winners in all but one category: Manager of the Year.

In that category, it was nip-and-tuck to that final day. The lead shifted several times throughout the course of the balloting. Capt. Lou Albano had the early lead. Precious Paul Ellering took over for about a week. The Captain regained the lead with about three weeks to go. Jim Cornette was never far off the pace, but he did not move into second until the final week. In the last seven days, Albano and Cornette exchanged the number one position four times. As the final day of tabulations began, Albano had a 375-vote lead.

Let me just take a few lines here to explain how the votes are tabulated. The mail arrives at our offices at the basement warehouse and is received by Esposito and his co-worker, Al Holman. Artie and Al remove the ballots from their envelopes. After that

(Continued on page 66)



The dapper Jim Cornette strikes up a pose for the fans. Quite a few fans felt Jim was deserving of the Manager of the Year award, but not enough for him to beat Capt. Lou Albano. Jim's mother made up the difference.

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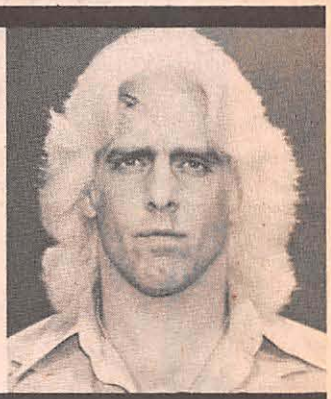
WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Every month, our reporters will compile wrestlers' most revealing quotes. Often catching the grapplers with their guards down, our reporters will work endlessly in obtaining interesting quotes on a variety of subjects.

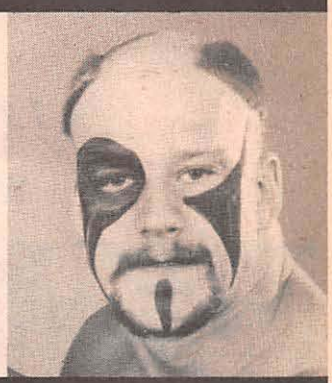


RIC FLAIR

"I could have predicted that I would win Wrestler of the Year honors for the second straight year, because when you look at the full spectrum of professional wrestling today, the cream *does* rise to the top. And I *am* the best that professional wrestling has to offer. Custom-made from head to toe, I am *the* man who sets the pace for professional wrestling, for the *sport* of professional wrestling, today."

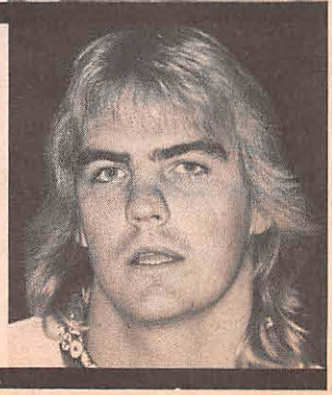
LOU ALBANO

"Listen here, daddy, I've got me a new tag team, The British Bulldogs, and I just wanna say that they have been never imitated, never duplicated, and they are going to be my next pair of tag team champions, daddy, because they have the talent, the skill, the ability, the skill, and the talent to do the job on Brutus Beefcake and Greg Valentine, and they *will* do the job, daddy, they *will* do the job."



ROAD WARRIOR HAWK

"Tag Team of the Year for the third year in a row? We don't care! You think that Paul is upset because he didn't win the Manager of the Year award? *He* doesn't care, either. We only care about one thing, and that's busting heads, and we do it better than anyone anywhere in the world. If that's what it takes to be Tag Team of the Year, then everyone else should forget about getting that award for a long, long time."



BARRY WINDHAM

"I just want to say that my plans for the immediate future are a little foggy right now, but I do want to put Kevin Sullivan on notice here and now: I didn't stand for what you did to my brother Kendell and my father Blackjack over in Tampa in the past, and I'm not going to stand for it in the future. You're mine, Sullivan, every slimy satanic inch of you. You're dead meat."

STEVE WILLIAMS

"All I do each day is go out there and wrestle as hard as I can in every match. I don't let injuries bother me, I don't let fans bother me, and I don't let wimps and idiots like Jake Roberts bother me. I want to thank the fans for voting me the Most Improved Wrestler of 1985, but I also want to tell them that if they thought I was good in '85, just wait and see what I do in '86!"

EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET

"Oh, these people are *so* edgy here in the Southeast. You would think that just one or two of these rednecks would be slightly intelligent enough to realize that by painting the Continental belt pink I am bringing some style to an otherwise drab and dreary wrestling promotion, just like I myself bring style in an area overflowing with beer-guzzling, hamburger-gulping Neanderthals. They have no taste whatsoever."

JIM CORNETTE

"That's right, daddy, you're looking at him, the 1985 Manager of the Year, as voted by the wrestling fans of this nation, the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine. You know something, I never expected this award, but I am so honored. It only goes to show me and my mamma that not all the fans are as stupid as they seem—only the ones who didn't vote for me are!"

ARN ANDERSON

"I don't understand what all the commotion is about. Listen, if Dusty Rhodes can't stand the heat, he should stay out of the kitchen. Me and Ole and Ric Flair did him a favor, because a man in Dusty's kind of shape should be embarrassed to stay in wrestling. Damn! He's so fat you could use him to skin graft Harlem and turn it into a white neighborhood! And you'd still have enough left over to make a midget tag team!"

MIKE VON ERICH

"I must take this opportunity to thank all my fans for the cards, the letters, and the phone calls asking about how I've been feeling. I've been feeling great lately, and I'm getting better every day. But this—to be named 1985's Inspirational Wrestler of the Year—this is such a surprise and an honor to me, I can't thank all you fans enough. God bless you all."

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February 1977/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Sammartino, Gagne.
May 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Sheik, Race.
August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.
September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.
October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.
November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.
December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.
March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.
April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.
August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.
October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.
November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.
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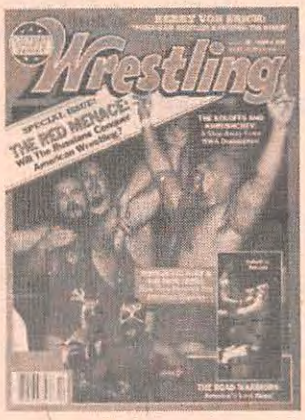
January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.
February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.
April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.
May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.
June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.
July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.
August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.
September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.
October 1979/Stories include: Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.
November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.
February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.
March 1980/Stories include: Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.
April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.
May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.
June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.
July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blassie.
August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.
September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.
November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.
January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.
February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.
April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.
May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.
June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.
January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.
February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.
March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.
April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.



OCTOBER 1985

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.
February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

INSIDE WRESTLING

☐ JULY 74	☐ OCT 77	☐ APR 80	☐ AUG 82	☐ JUNE 84
☐ AUG 74	☐ NOV 77	☐ MAY 80	☐ SEPT 82	☐ JULY 84
☐ SEPT 74	☐ DEC 77	☐ JUNE 80	☐ OCT 82	☐ AUG 84
☐ NOV 74	☐ FEB 78	☐ JULY 80	☐ NOV 82	☐ SEPT 84
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☐ AUG 77	☐ FEB 80	☐ JUNE 82	☐ APR 84	
☐ SEPT 77	☐ MAR 80	☐ JULY 82	☐ MAY 84	

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December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

January 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Wrestling II, Rhodes.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

AUGUST 1985

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

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March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

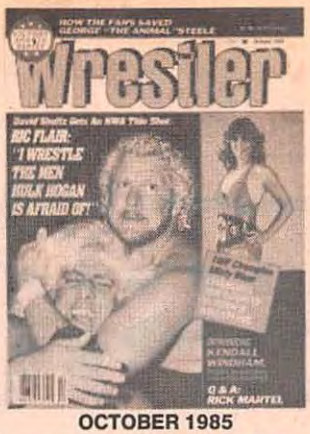
May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.



OCTOBER 1985

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors. Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

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ON ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

THE MAIL'S ALREADY been pouring in about my last column. In case you haven't read it, I defended The Fabulous Moolah against the biases of history. She has the right to be considered as one of the greatest wrestlers in the history of the squared circle. But I didn't realize how strong, and disgusting, the repercussions would be.

Thankfully, I didn't have any trouble with the editorial staff here at *PWI*. Even though I characterized them in no uncertain nasty terms, I got nothing but positive feedback from my ostensible bosses. Believe me, they believe in editorial freedom here, even if it means slandering the folks who edit my copy by calling them "pigs" and so on. Nary a word of my copy was snipped, and I appreciate that. I won't be wasting a buck on the Sunday *Times* employment ads for a while, at least. These clowns here may be sexist, but they will defend to the death my right to speak out. And I *cannot* surrender this unique forum—I will hopefully represent the voice of female wrestlers and female wrestling fans for years to come.

It's the bad mail that proved to be atrocious. I can't repeat the foul sniggering, the poison of the pens in the letters to my column—let's face it, there are a heck of a lot of morons out there who can't accept women in the ring, and they will go so far as to threaten 115-pound journalists with physical injury and bodily in-

(Continued on page 68)

Miss Elizabeth seldom takes her eyes off her man, Randy Savage, while he's inside the ring. Away from the ring, Elizabeth has gained a reputation as a tough business negotiator.

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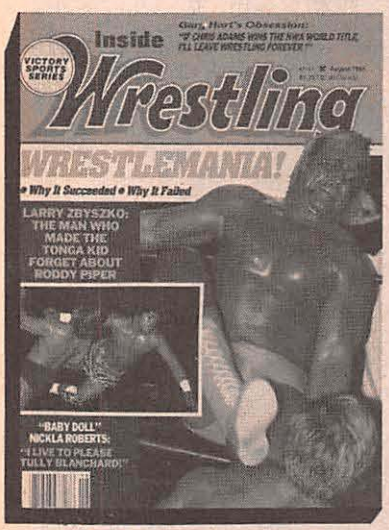
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• Why It Succeeded • Why It Failed
LARRY ZBYSZKO: THE MAN WHO MADE THE TONGA KID FORGET ABOUT RODDY PIPER
"BABY DOLL" NICKLA ROBERTS: "I LIVE TO PLEASE TULLY BLANCHARD!"

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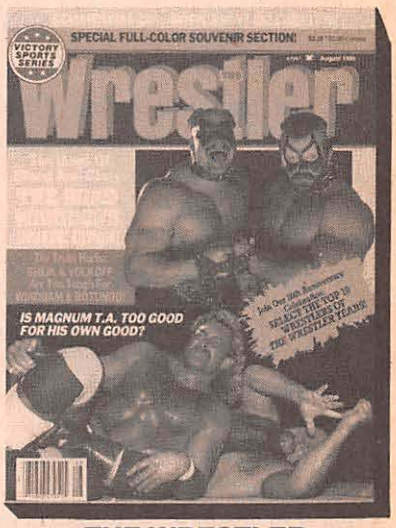

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BY EDDIE ELLNER

off the Top Rope

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

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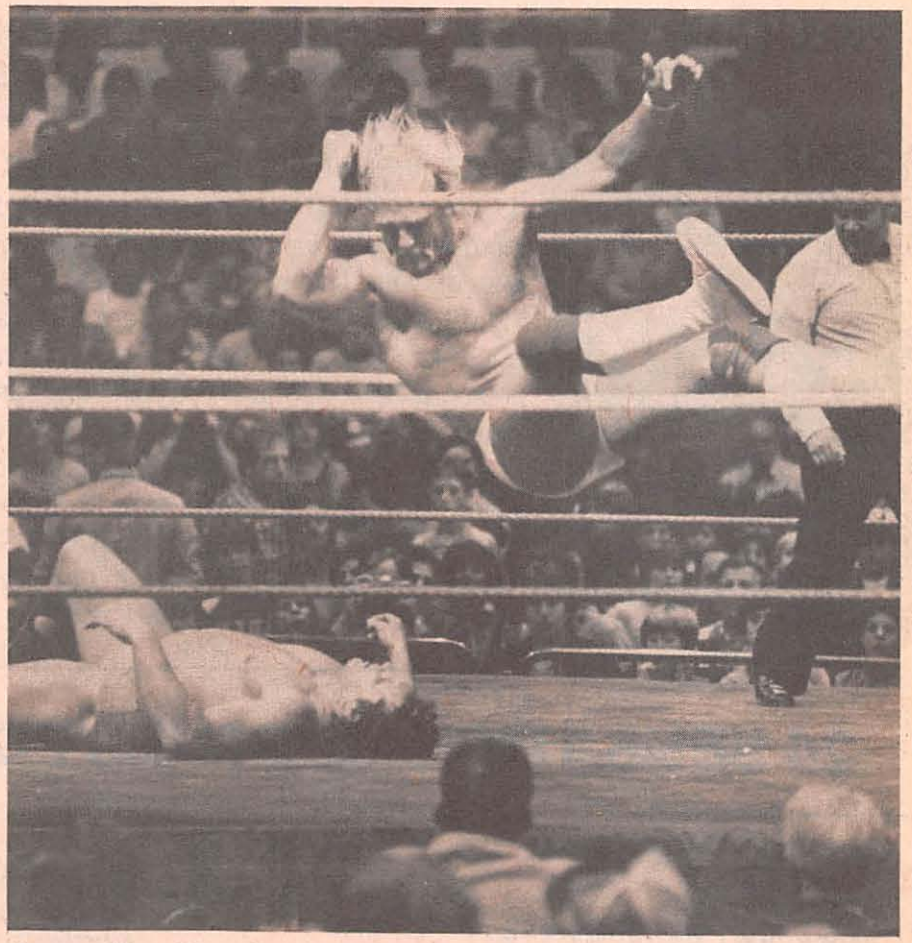
[Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily represent the editorial views of this magazine.]

'Twill be the night before Christmas
when this mag hits the stands,
Lining up for its purchase
will be thousands of fans.
Most of whom are
at extreme odds with I,
And who'd love in my face
to throw a banana cream pie.
But Gomers take comfort.
Ignorance, it's bliss!
With your teaspoons of brains
you always will miss
What I'm trying to say—but today
do not fear
When I say quite clearly
and even sincerely:
Have a slap-Happy Christmas
and a Merry New Year.

Dear Eddie Ellner,

I think your criticism of Hulk Hogan is very unjust. I am one of his greatest fans. You say the only moves he knows are the legdrop and the elbowsmash? So what? They're devastating, they work, and he's defended his title successfully for almost two years. When are you going to wake up and realize Hulk-a-Mania rules forever?

CHRISTOPHER TWOMEY
Bayside, NY



Alas, poor Hogan, I knew him well/The merchandise he loved to sell/But when he wrestled, he only knew/finishing moves that numbered two. Take a good look at this photo, folks, here's half of the WWF World heavyweight champion's wrestling repertoire.

Dear Christopher Twomey,
There was a guitarist from Venice
Who wrestled, but should
have played tennis.
They called him the Hulk
Because of his bulk,
But he certainly wasn't no menace.

Dear Mr. Ellner,

I would like to express my outrage about Ric Flair's recent attack on Dusty Rhodes. How could Flair take advantage of such a situation? Attacking Dusty when he's down. Breaking

(Continued on page 70)

MICHAEL HAYES AND THE FREEBIRDS NEW HIT SINGLE!

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WRAPS

With CRAIG PETERS

1985: THE YEAR IN REVIEW—LEFTOVERS

It's hard to believe that this is the fifth year-end issue of ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated*** *that I've had the pleasure to be involved with. Back in the March 1983 edition, I instituted the idea of a "Year In Review" section; "1982: The Year In Review" was five pages in length, and was very well-received by the readers.*

In the March 1984 issue, "1983: The Year In Review" was again five pages in length, but contained more material. The March 1985 ***PWI*** *saw the "Year In Review" section for 1984 stretched out to seven pages. This year, the "Year In Review" section (page 25) has been expanded to 12 pages—and can you believe that there still wasn't enough space to include a lot of the items that I wanted to cover?*

So I thought it would be interesting to review my notes of what happened in 1985 and to present an additional overview of some of the material that didn't fit into "1985: The Year In Review." These items were, for me, some of the true highlights (and lowlights) of what was unquestionably the most tumultuous year in the sport's history.

***

ANDRE THE GIANT

THE INFANT HULKSTER

Andre the Giant was the victim of a most humiliating experience when he had his hair cut by **Bobby Heenan** and **Big John Studd** . . . **Nikita Koloff** really came into his own this year. It's hard to believe that this mighty Russian is only a sophomore professional, particularly in light of his superb matches against NWA World champion **Ric Flair** . . . **Scott Casey** provided some laughs for fans in the World Class area earlier in the year when he stole **Jim Cornette's** green country club jacket.

Speaking of laughs, the WWF turned itself into a Saturday morning cartoon with *Hulk Hogan's Rock 'n' Wrestling,* though many critics of the Federation would say that the WWF has long been a cartoon anyway . . . **Rick Steamboat** successfully dismounted the career treadmill that had been plaguing him during his tenure in the NWA and managed to revitalize his career by moving to the WWF and adopting a martial arts-based style . . . **The Road Warriors** invaded

Japan and took the country by storm. They captured the imagination of the Japanese fans, appeared on dozens of covers of Japanese wrestling magazines, and obliterated all opposition they faced.

Veteran wrestling announcer **Gordon Solie** wrote a book, *Master Of The Ring—An Autobiographical Reminiscence* . . . ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated*** released two videotapes, *Lords Of The Ring—Superstars And Superbouts* and *Ringmasters—The Great American Bash* . . . **Sgt. Slaughter** released a record album . . . The AWA released a line of dolls . . . And the WWF did all of the above, merchandising its own line of books, videotapes, dolls, records, and enough assorted merchandise to keep a hardcore WWF fan's wallet empty for months.

There were some major wrestling cards in 1985 that should not be forgotten: Aloha Stadium in Honolulu was the site of Polynesian Pacific Championship Wrestling promoter **Lia Maivia's** "Hot Summer Night" card on August 3 . . . Longtime Pacific Northwest promoter **Don Owens** celebrated his family's 60th anniversary in wrestling by staging a spectacular card of matches in Portland on May 21 . . . The Florida area's card of the year had to be the "Battle of the Belts" spectacular on September 2 . . . And on September 28, "Super Clash '85" was undoubtedly the AWA card of the year, featuring no fewer than eight former NWA, AWA, or WWF champions . . . The second annual "**David Von Erich** Memorial Parade of Champions" took place on May 5 in Texas Stadium . . . Of course, who could forget the March 31 WrestleMania spectacular and the NWA's series of "Great American Bash" cards?

Capt. Lou Albano became a fan favorite this year . . . **Ole Anderson** became a rulebreaker . . . **Jake "The Snake" Roberts** became a fan favorite . . . So did **Paul Orndorff**.

On the television scene, **Terry Funk** didn't do too well with his western series *Wildside* (maybe that's why he's so angrily branding everyone in sight in the WWF) . . . **Paul Orndorff** made an Absorbine Jr. commercial . . . **Hulk Hogan** and **Mr. T** co-hosted *Saturday Night Live* . . . **George Steele** did a commercial for Minolta computer systems . . . **Sgt. Slaughter** made a diet Coke commercial . . . And **Roddy Piper, Andre the Giant, Fred Blassie, The Iron Sheik, Capt. Lou Albano, Nikolai Volkoff, Fabulous Moolah,** and **Wendi Richter** all joined **Cyndi Lauper** in her video for the title song to the film *Goonies.*

SGT. SLAUGHTER AND MEMBERS OF HIS ROCK 'N' ROLL BAND

1985 had its share of ridiculousness, too . . . Remember **Dusty Rhodes'** gorilla? . . . **Hillbilly Jim's** aunt, **Granny Kim**? . . . **Baroness Bertha Von Raschke**? . . . **Greg Gagne** baring his midriff ala **Madonna** as he adopted a **Rambo**-cum-**Sgt. Slaughter** style of dress?

Before I so quickly run out of space, allow me to make note of the following: The **Magnificent Muraco-Rick Steamboat** and **Tully Blanchard-Magnum T.A.** wars were the feuds of the year, as far as I'm concerned . . . **Andre the Giant** embarked on several tours of Japan this year. While there, he was managed by the hated Japanese manager **Wakamatsu**. Andre also wrestled under a mask in Japan, and was named **The Giant Machine** (after the style of mask commonly worn in Japan by **The Strong Machines**) . . . **Exotic Adrian Street** painted the Southeast championship belt *pink*, exclaiming "I don't know what all the fuss is about, it looks simply ravishing. Besides, nobody else is going to wear it but me anyway!"

And in the pages of *PWI,* we presented some very special issues: The May 1985 issue was the first all-tag team issue of *PWI* ever published . . . The August 1985 issue saw **Kerry, Kevin, Mike,** and **Chris Von Erich** posed together and a cover story that examined young Chris' attitudes toward his brothers . . . Photos of **Hulk Hogan** as an infant and as a young child graced the cover of the January 1986 *PWI,* and were featured in a special section.

NIKITA KOLOFF VS. RIC FLAIR

It's been a great year for wrestling and for *PWI.* Can 1986 be better? I'm not sure about how much better wrestling itself might become, but as for *PWI* improving over the next 12 months—stick around! □

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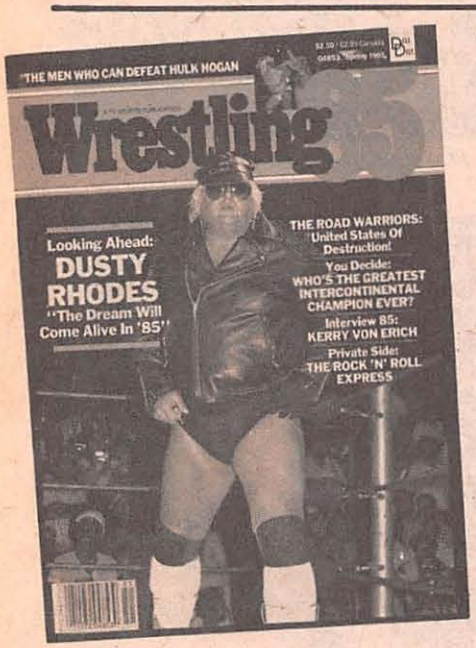
THE MEN WHO CAN DEFEAT HULK HOGAN
Wrestling
Looking Ahead:
DUSTY RHODES
"The Dream Will Come Alive In '85"
THE ROAD WARRIORS: United States Of Destruction!
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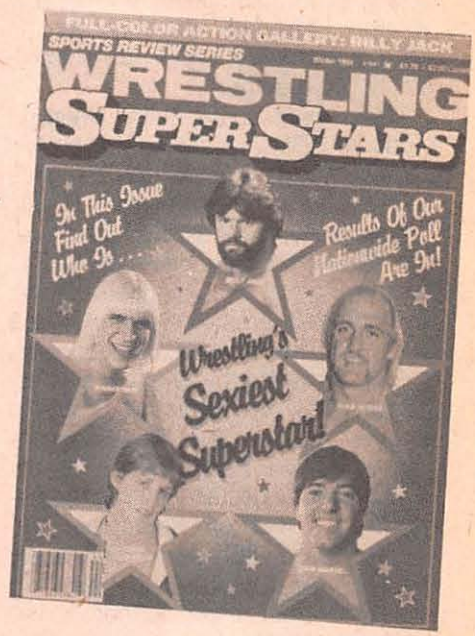
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19 THE YEAR IN REVIEW 85

Section Compiled By Craig Peters

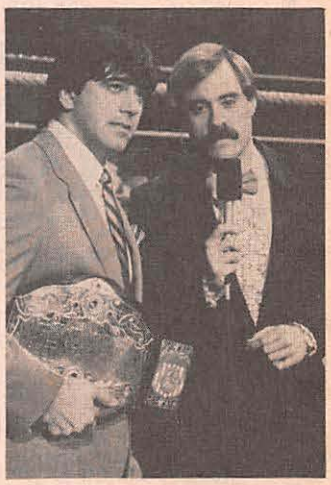
1985 WAS A remarkable year for professional wrestling, characterized at once by both stability and change. The change came about as cable television played a greater role in the sport. More wrestling shows in 1985 reached more people than ever before. Television expansion was apparent in all three major federations as virtually every major cable network—and even NBC—scrambled to fit wrestling into their schedules.

With this new popularity came a rush by the sport's promoters to market not only the sport itself, but the sport's top participants. And as that rush went into full swing, the mainstream national media sat up and took notice: Newsweek, Time, Sports Illustrated, and TV Guide were the most prominent publications to run wrestling stories this year. Yet despite this new furor surrounding professional wrestling, there was a curious sense of stability that came with respect to the sport's three major champions, all of whom weathered challenges from plenty of top contenders and held on to their titles throughout the year.

And in the face of the WWF's increased willingness to forsake sport for entertainment ridiculousness (as demonstrated by wedding day pies and cakes in the face, TNT, and the Hulk Hogan's Rock 'n' Wrestling Saturday morning cartoon), such men as NWA World champion Ric Flair and AWA World champion Rick Martel continued to place pure wrestling far ahead of self-merchandising. 1985 was, undeniably, a benchmark year for the sport:

1985 SAW the first national closed-circuit television presentation of a major wrestling card, as the WWF's March 31 WrestleMania event was beamed to over 125 theater and arena locations coast to coast. While the 1983 and 1984 Thanksgiving day Starrcade cards paved the way for WrestleMania by being broadcast to closed-circuit television locations throughout the Mid-Atlantic, no wrestling card ever came close to reaching the numbers of people that WrestleMania did. And WrestleMania in turn paved the way for the first of a series of WWF-sponsored pay-per-view events broadcast nationwide over local cable television outlets.

1985 SAW an incredible expansion of wrestling on cable television. USA cable network broadcasts three different programs of WWF wrestling weekly. Atlanta SuperStation WTBS airs four hours of World Championship area wrestling each weekend. ESPN broadcasts a 90-minute AWA program twice each week. MSG cable network broadcasts both WWF and World Class area wrestling. And even FNN, the Financial News Network, has joined the bandwagon, broadcasting Polynesian Pacific wrestling every Saturday evening.



1985 SAW wrestling return to network television for the first time in nearly 30 years as NBC broadcast a series of WWF-produced specials called *Saturday Night's Main Event.* SNME, which aired in the time slot normally occupied by *Saturday Night Live,* blended wrestling match action with *TNT*-inspired lunacy such as George Steele at the zoo, a Mothers' Day pie fight, and the wedding (and reception) of Uncle Elmer. For serious fans of the *sport* of wrestling, the shows received mixed reviews at best.

1985 SAW locally syndicated wrestling shows grow in strength in the same manner cable TV wrestling did. A mid-year set of Arbitron ratings showed that four of the top five syndicated sports shows in the country are wrestling shows: Mid-South Wrestling was number one, followed in rank by Mid-Atlantic wrestling, *Power Pro Wrestling* (Mid-South), and *World Class Championship Wrestling.* The fifth place finisher was *This Week In Baseball.* Also, for the first time ever, a wrestling card was broadcast live via nationwide syndication. The Florida-based "Battle of the Belts" card September 2 in Tampa was seen on free TV throughout Florida and in such cities as Boston, Dallas, and Charlotte, North Carolina.

1985 WAS ALL OF THIS—AND MUCH, MUCH MORE . . .

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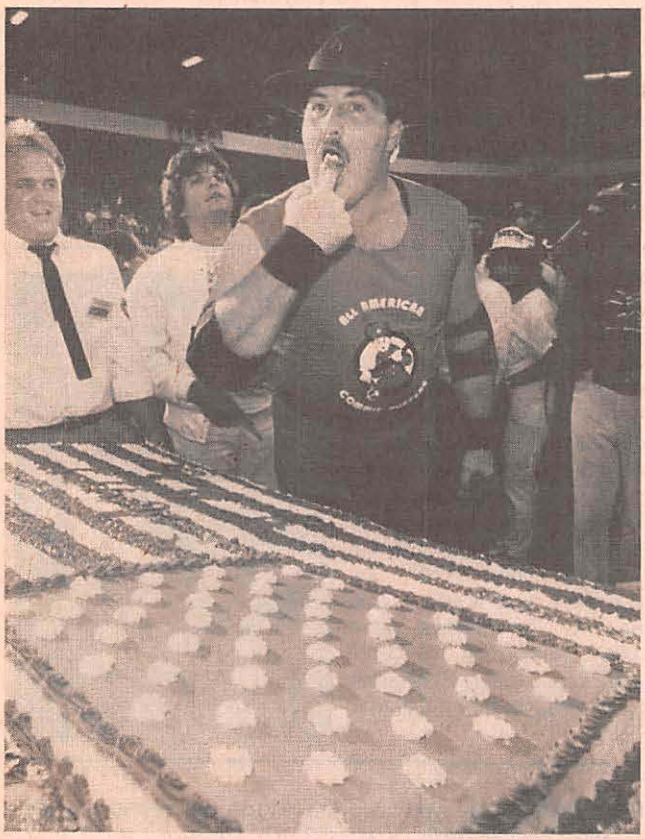
NUMBERS '85

$39.95 list price for a videocassette of the WWF's March 31 WrestleMania card, which WWF head Vince McMahon said wouldn't be shown on broadcast television until fans, as WWF announcers claimed, "are old and grey." Within six months, many of the matches from WrestleMania had been seen on broadcast television.

$100 was the cost of a ringside seat at Madison Square Garden for the WWF's March 31 WrestleMania card (ringside seats in MSG usually cost $14).



$400 was the cost of a birthday cake presented to Sgt. Slaughter on August 27 at Northeastern University in Boston in conjunction with a Muscular Dystrophy charity fundraising card of wrestling. The cake measured four feet by six feet, weighed 200 pounds, and was baked by Montilio's Bakery in Quincy, Massachusetts.

$866.15 is how much it would cost you to purchase one each of every merchandising item offered in the WWF's eight-page 1985 "Season's Greetings Catalog."

$1,000 offered to Ric Flair by Magnum T.A., payable only if Flair beat T.A. in 10 minutes or less on WTBS' *World Championship Wrestling.* Flair accepted and failed to defeat him in the time limit.

$1,182 is your cost if you wish to order every back issue of every wrestling magazine available in this issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* that you hold in your hands.

$1,500 value of the hand-tailored suit offered to Magnum T.A. by Ric Flair. T.A. ripped the suit to shreds on WTBS' *World Championship Wrestling.*

$3,000 fine and a three-month suspension levied by the New York State Athletic Commission against "Dr. D" David Shultz for boxing the ears of ABC reporter John Stossel.

$3,000 in damages sustained by a WTBS camera when Ole Anderson took a swipe at it following a dressing room attack in which Ole and Arn Anderson ambushed Magnum T.A.

$5,000 fine on Terry Funk for attacking ring attendant Mel Phillips.

$5,000 prize offered for a series of benchpress challenges between Billy Jack Haynes and Hercules Hernandez; Hernandez skipped Florida shortly after the challenge was issued.

$10,000 in extra training money given to Jim Cornette by his mother in the hopes of finding a new way for The Midnight Express to win the World Class tag team belts from The Fantastics.

$10,000 offered to The Nightmare and his manager Eddie Gilbert by Ric Flair if they could wrest the North American title away from Terry Taylor, knocking him out of position for an NWA title match. They were successful.

$10,000 bounty placed on each of the following: Dusty Rhodes, Rick Steamboat, and Manny Fernandez. J.J. Dillon placed the bounty as the result of the three men ripping away Dillon's suit to reveal women's underwear.

$15,000 in cash thrown to the ringside audience at WrestleMania in Madison Square Garden when Andre the Giant bodyslammed Big John Studd and grabbed the money-containing satchel carried by Bobby Heenan.

$20,000 bounty placed on Wahoo McDaniel by Ric Flair.

$50,000 bounty on "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff, placed by Bobby "The Brain" Heenan and upped from $25,000 earlier in the year.

$50,000 won by Rick Steamboat and Jimmy Snuka in a Philadelphia tag team battle royal.

$50,000 won by Debbie Combs in an all-women battle royal in New Jersey's Brendan Byrne Meadowlands Arena.

$50,000 won by Hulk Hogan and his partner, Hillbilly Jim, in a tag team battle royal in Landover, Maryland.

$100,000 offered to Gary Hart by the editors of *The Wrestler* if he could put an end to the Chris Adams-Kevin Von Erich feud. Hart laughed at the offer.

$100,000 in life insurance per wrestler required by the New York State Athletic Commission, to be provided by New York wrestling promoters, effective September 1.

$100,000 received by Sgt. Slaughter when he singlehandedly won the 12-team tag team challenge at the "Star Wars '85" Pro Wrestling U.S.A. card February 24 in New Jersey's Meadowlands.

$100,000 won by the team of Kerry, Kevin, and Mike Von Erich plus Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts in a best-of-five-falls match in Texas Stadium May 5; they defeated the six-man combination of Chris Adams, Gino Hernandez, Steve Williams, Kamala, One Man Gang, and Rip Oliver to win the money.

$102,987 in estimated refunds given to angry Pittsburgh fans who went to see the March 31 WrestleMania card on closed-circuit television and were greeted with a blank screen.

$376,614 in tax dollars collected as the result of professional wrestling by New York State in fiscal year 1985.

$18,600,000 in damages sought by Kevin Wilson, a St. Louis wrestling fan who contended that Kamala punched him in the face and knocked him backward over a row of seats.

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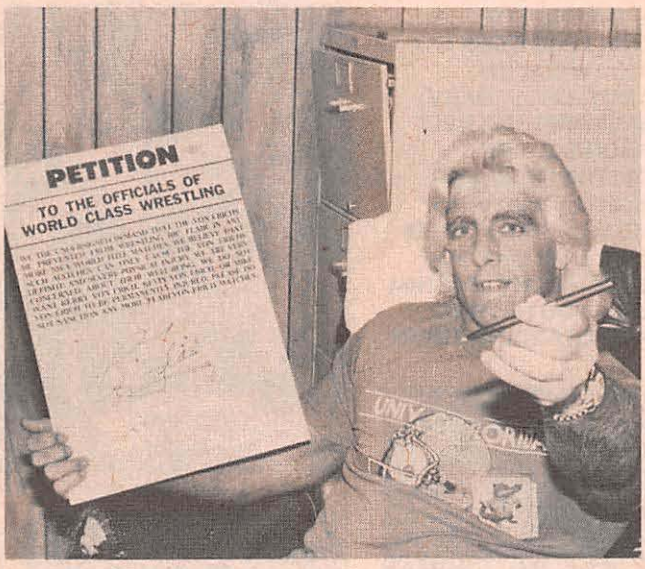
YOU CAN CALL ME RAY, OR YOU CAN CALL ME JAY, OR YOU CAN CALL ME JOHNNY . . .

Before Uncle Elmer was known as Uncle Elmer he was known as Playboy Frazier; and before Playboy Frazier was known as Playboy Frazier he was known as The Lone Ranger (pictured); and before The Lone Ranger was known as The Lone Ranger he was known as Kamala II; and before Kamala II was known as Kamala II he was known as Plowboy Frazier. His *real* name is Stan Frazier (we think).



AND NEXT WEEK IN DALLAS, RIC FLAIR DEFENDS HIS NWA WORLD TITLE AGAINST (fill in name) VON ERICH!

After several months during which it seemed that NWA World champion Ric Flair's only challengers were Kerry and Kevin Von Erich (and sometimes even Mike Von Erich), Flair made a public statement regarding the Von Erichs. His declaration came in the form of a petition to World Class area officials that read: "We the undersigned demand that the Von Erichs be prevented from wrestling Ric Flair in any more NWA World title matches. We believe that such matches can only cause the Von Erichs definite and severe physical injury. We are very concerned about their well-being. We do not want Kerry Von Erich, Kevin Von Erich, or Mike Von Erich to be permanently injured. Please do not sanction any more Flair-Von Erich matches." In the November 1985 edition of *The Wrestler,* Flair invited fans to write letters supporting his petition. Within 30 days of that magazine hitting the newsstands, over 5,000 pieces of mail, both pro and con, had been forwarded to the World Class offices.

YES SIR, THAT'S MY BABY (DOLL)

Baby Doll, a.k.a. Nickla Roberts, made the rounds this year. She began 1985 in the service of Gino Hernandez in the World Class area. Early in the year, however, she left Gino and became Tully Blanchard's "Perfect

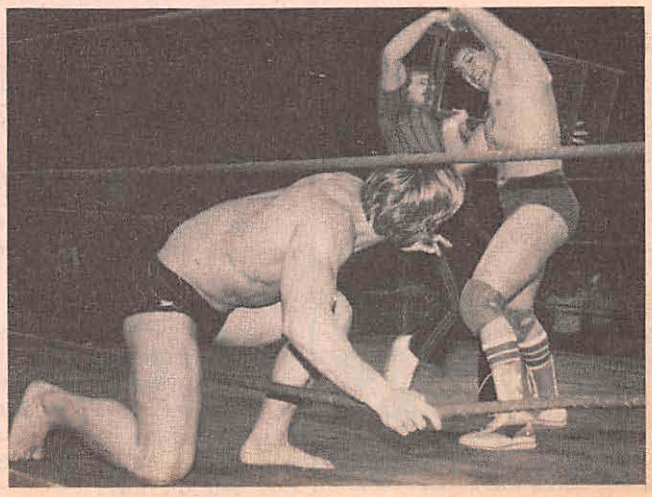
10" in the Mid-Atlantic area. When Tully lost a cage match to Dusty Rhodes on July 6, however, Baby Doll became the servant of "The American Dream" for 30 days. She didn't enjoy that one-month tour of duty, however, and got her revenge: After swiping Dusty's credit cards, Baby Doll went on a spending spree that cost Dusty thousands. But she went farther than that—more than 3,000 miles farther! Baby Doll treated herself to a "Dream" vacation in Hawaii, courtesy of you know who.

LAND OF THE GIANTS

Forget about the feud between Andre the Giant and Big John Studd regarding who is the bigger man in wrestling—or at least in the WWF (where you certainly can't count out King Kong Bundy, Uncle Elmer, or even Hulk Hogan). Consider a pair of men by the name of Big Bubba and John Harris (pictured), both of whom made considerable impressions on wrestling this year. Big Bubba impressed everyone in Texas by winning a 24-man "Battle of the Alamo" battle royal on September 29—Bubba stands 6'8" and weighs in at 431 pounds. Meanwhile, John Harris (alternately known this year as "Big" John Harris and "Little John") appeared in the

World Class, Mid-Southern, and Continental areas—Harris stands 7'8" and weighs 525 pounds!

WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING MATCH OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 1985: CHRIS ADAMS VS. KEVIN VON ERICH



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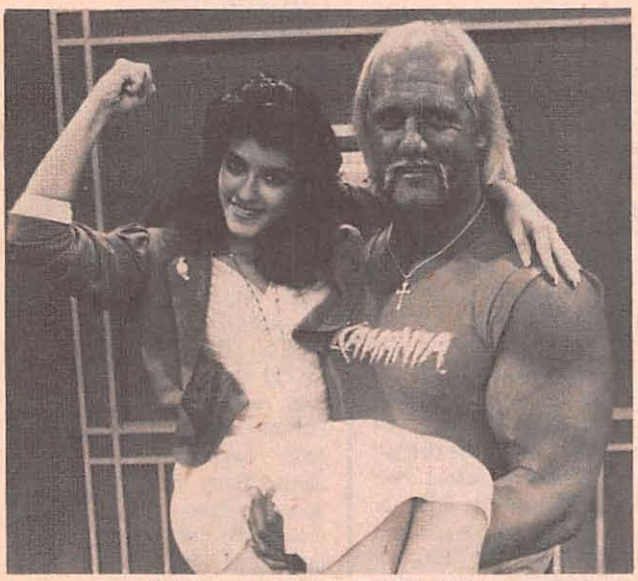
HONEST, FANS, HE'S JUST A HARD-WORKING CHAMPION WHO . . . ER, UH . . . WELL, HE *DOES* TRY TO WORK OUT EVERY DAY, AND . . . WELL, UH . . . OKAY, MAYBE NOT *EVERY* DAY, BUT, UH . . . OKAY, LOOK, WE *KNOW* HE MISSED DEFENDING THE BELT FIVE MONTHS IN A ROW IN MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—EVEN THOUGH THAT'S "THE MECCA OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING," RIGHT?—AND WHO KNOWS WHEN THE NEXT TIME HE WRESTLES THERE MIGHT BE, BUT . . . WELL, OKAY, SEE, HE MAY NOT DEFEND HIS TITLE AS OFTEN AS YOU MIGHT LIKE HIM TO, BUT, UH, HE'S . . . WELL, I MEAN YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THAT HE *LOOKS* GOOD JUST STANDING THERE, RIGHT? RIGHT? RIGHT!

Hulk Hogan on *The Tonight Show*



Hulk Hogan on *Search For Tomorrow*

Hulk Hogan at the Grammy awards

Hulk Hogan on *The Love Boat*

IN MEMORIUM

Wild Bull Curry
Eddie Graham
Rick McGraw
Dan Shocket
Jay Youngblood

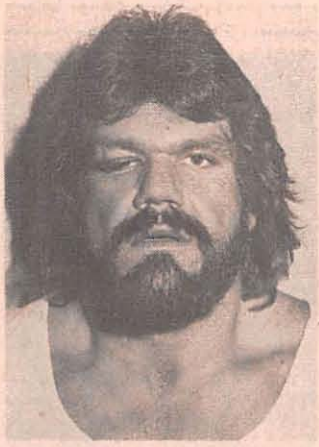
8 stitches needed to close the wound in Richard Belzer's head when Hulk Hogan dropped him on the floor during an installment of Belzer's Lifetime cable program *Hot Properties.*

18 stitches required to sew up a wound in Kevin Von Erich's head following Chris Adams breaking a chair over his head in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

25 stitches needed by Marty Jannetty when he was allegedly attacked by Mr. Pogo and Super Destroyer while sleeping in the locker room.

26 stitches needed to close a wound over the right eye of Sam Houston; Houston had run into the ring to save Dusty Rhodes from an attack by Tully Blanchard, who was beating Dusty with a spike bracelet that Baby Doll handed to him.

KEEP 'EM IN STITCHES



31 stitches needed to close a wound in the head of Jos LeDuc after a match in Montreal where LeDuc teamed with Dino Bravo to battle The Road Warriors.

42 stitches in the head of Diamond Timothy Flowers as the result of a gash opened by a punch by Ricky Vaughn.

57 stitches needed to repair a head wound to Mid-Southern area wrestler Brian O'Reilly; the injury was sustained during a televised match.

59 stitches needed to close wounds in Mike Miller's head following an attack in the Pacific Northwest by Billy Jack Haynes. Miller was insulting Billy's father when Haynes attacked, splitting his head open on the announcer's table. Haynes continued his attack, sending Miller careening over a rail, falling eight feet onto metal chairs below.

108 stitches used to repair an injury to Steve Williams' eye. Williams (pictured) was hit in the eye by Brad Armstrong's elbow; he wrestled again that same day!

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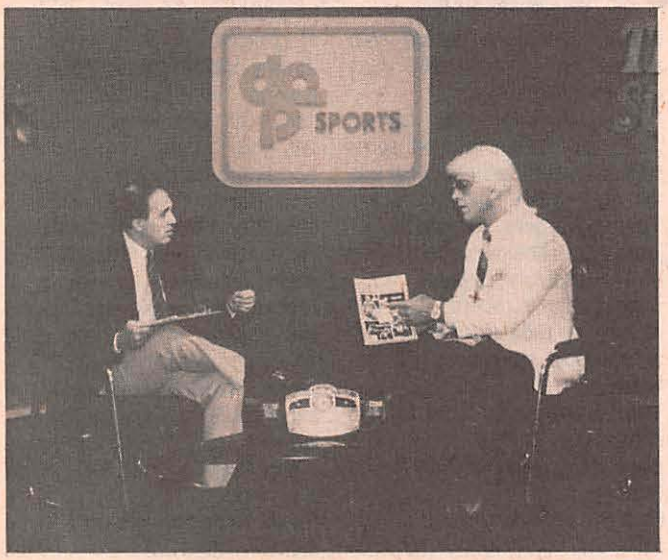
HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

Perhaps someone should consider installing a revolving peppermint stick barber pole in the offices of World Class wrestling. On May 5 in Texas Stadium, Kerry Von Erich's win in his match against One Man Gang resulted in OMG's manager Gary Hart having his head shaved. Five months and one day later, on October 6 in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Gino Hernandez and Chris Adams had their heads shaved following their loss in a match against Kerry and Kevin Von Erich.

IT TAKES MORE THAN A NEW COAT OF PAINT TO TURN A FREEBIRD INTO A HAWK—OR AN ANIMAL

When The Fabulous Freebirds found themselves faced with a series of matches against The Road Warriors, they decided to engage in a significant piece of psychological warfare: Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts painted their faces like Confederate flags as a reply to Hawk and Animal's own style of war paint.



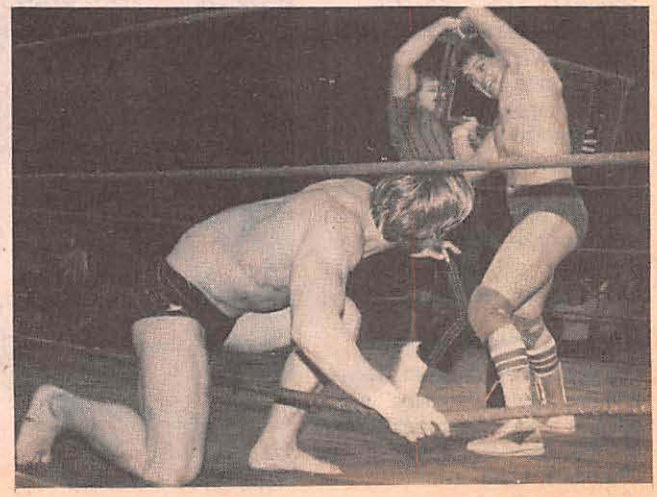
LIGHTS! CAMERA! APTER!

Pro Wrestling Illustrated took to the airwaves once again this year as Senior Editor Bill Apter hosted "*Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Scouting Report" on WTBS' *Best Of World Championship Wrestling* each Sunday evening. Apter interviewed Ric Flair on most of the segments, analyzing the top contenders for Flair's NWA World title, including stars not only from the World Championship area, but also from the AWA, Mid-South, World Class, Mid-Southern, Florida, and Southeast areas. In other segments, Apter spoke with other major NWA champions about the challengers to their respective championships.

YOU CAN LOSE ALL OF YOUR MATCHES SOME OF THE TIME . . .

Jack Hart captured the imagination of fans in the Florida area who actually cheered for the young wrestler to *lose* each time he stepped into the ring. The reason? Hart was the holder of one of the longest losing streaks in Florida history. He ran his record up to a notably undistinguished 0-131 before scoring his first win—over Leo Von Stroheim in Tampa. The win came shortly after Hart turned to Percy Pringle for career guidance. And not too long after that first victory, Hart went on to capture the Florida title in a tournament final victory over Mike Graham (with illegal help from Pringle) on July 23. Hart defended the title successfully until losing the belt to Kendell Windham, on September 2.

WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING MATCH OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL 1985: CHRIS ADAMS VS. KEVIN VON ERICH



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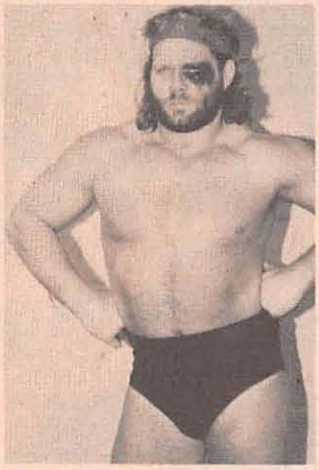
INJURY REPORT

Lars Anderson had to wear an eye patch in 1985 because of black ink thrown in his face by Buck Robley.

Scott Armstrong was sidelined for several weeks with an arm injury inflicted by Bill Ash.

Jonathan Boyd, one half of the Kiwi Sheepherders, had to leave the Southwest area early in 1985 due to a broken leg.

David Crockett was injured by Nikita Koloff and put out of the announcer's booth for several weeks when, while conducting an interview with "The Russian Nightmare," Koloff clotheslined him.



Hacksaw Jim Duggan (above) was burned in the face when Gen. Skandor Akbar ran into the ring during Duggan's match with Kamala and threw fire at him.

Tatsumi Fujinami suffered a knee injury during his September 19 match in Tokyo against Antonio Inoki; that match was officiated by six-time NWA World champion Lou Thesz, who called it the best match he had ever seen in his life.

Ichiro Furutachi is a Japanese wrestling announcer who had to wear a protective wrapping on his head following an incident where he was hit by "Dr. D" David Shultz on March 1 in Tokyo.

Verne Gagne sustained two broken ribs during his comeback match in Chicago April 28 in a cage match where he teamed with Slaughter and Blackwell vs. Superstar, King Tonga, and Al-Kaissie.

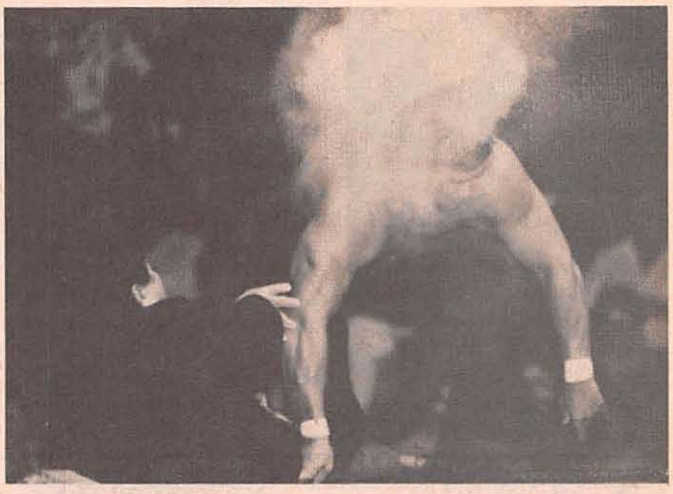
Curt Hennig suffered a head injury at the hands of The Road Warriors that kept him out of action for several weeks.

Hillbilly Jim was sidelined for several months when his kneecap was ripped from its socket by Brutus Beefcake and Johnny Valiant.

Hulk Hogan reportedly faces knee surgery as the result of constant pounding and abuse in WWF World title matches throughout 1985.

Antonio Inoki was attacked by a chain-wielding Bruiser Brody in his dressing room in Japan and received an injured left arm.

Kamala reportedly suffered a broken jaw in the Florida area as the result of a Billy Jack Haynes dropkick.



Bugsy McGraw was burned when Rip Rogers rubbed some sort of unidentified chemical into the right side of his face.

Tommy Rogers suffered an injured right shoulder at the hands of The Midnight Express.

Tito Santana spent the first months of 1985 recovering from arthroscopic surgery to his right knee.

The Snowman suffered a brain concussion as the result of a piledriver delivered by The Nightmare.

Rick Steamboat suffered an eye injury as the result of Mr. Fuji tossing medicated powder in his eyes during a match against Magnificent Muraco (above).

Jimmy Valiant sustained an injury to his throat when Paul Jones hit him with a baseball bat while he was being held by Konga the Barbarian and Superstar Graham.

Mike Von Erich had a bad year. He sustained an injured knee when attacked by OMG & Brooks; he also sustained a hairline fracture in his right hand when he was attacked by Rip Oliver. Three dislocations of his left shoulder by Gino Hernandez led to surgery that in turn led to a near-fatal bout with toxic shock syndrome.

Steve Williams wore an armpad early in 1985 due to a stress fracture sustained during a televised Mid-South match.

MAYBE THEY SHOULD RENAME THE AWA THE *ALZHEIMER'S* WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

In addition to Verne Gagne making his comeback in 1985, regular competitors in the AWA this year included Nick Bockwinkel, Bruiser (pictured), Crusher, Larry Hennig, Billy Robinson, Baron Von Raschke, and Ray Stevens. *You* figure out the average age of this bunch; we left our calculator home.

ON THE OTHER HAND . . .

On September 20, Fred Blassie and Lou Albano "wrestled" each other in a steel cage match held in the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, Long Island.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Jerry Brisco
Friday (pictured)
Mr. J.R.
Killer Khan
Keith Larson
Angelo Mosca Jr.
Kendo Nagasaki
Thunderbolt Patterson
Jack Reynolds
Randy Rose
The Saint
The Samoans
Siegfried
The Snowman
Speedy Tall Tree
Sweet Brown Sugar
The Terminators
The Tonga Kid
Mr. Wrestling II

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IF CYNDI LAUPER WAS PLAYING IN TOWN THAT NIGHT, PERHAPS ANDRE THE GIANT WOULD HAVE COME ALONG TO BAIL OUT THE POLICE OFFICERS FROM THOSE TWO GOONIES

On June 6, after nearly seven hours of deliberation, a jury found Ken Patera and Mr. Saito guilty of several assault charges that resulted from a fight with police officers in Waukesha, Wisconsin, on April 6, 1984. Patera was convicted of two counts of battery to a peace officer and one count of criminal damage to property, while Saito was convicted of three counts of battery and one count of obstructing an officer. Patera and Saito were charged with attacking the officers while they were being questioned at the Waukesha Holiday Inn in connection with a rock having been thrown through the window of a nearby fast food restaurant. They were both sentenced to two years in prison and placed on probation for six years; they become eligible for parole this month.

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

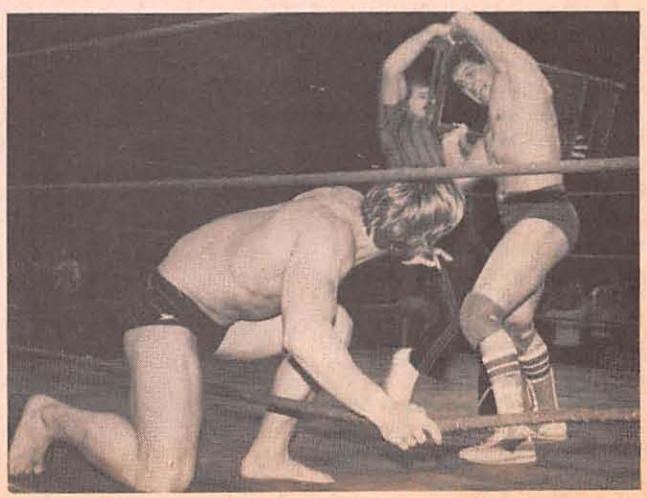
New York State Senator Abraham Bernstein (Democrat—Bronx) introduced a bill this year to ban professional wrestling. The Senate Task Force on Professional Wrestling, chaired by Bernstein, held hearings in the World Trade Center on October 8. Among other highlights reported by the *New York Times* the next day:

- A psychiatrist, Dr. Robert E. Gould, testified before the panel and said that his studies showed illegal tactics outnumbered legal tactics by 3 to 1.
- Capt. Lou Albano spoke to the panel by telephone. According to the *Times*, Albano "didn't attend because 'some of these politicians have brains the size of dehydrated peas.' " The *Times* also quoted Albano as saying, "I am well aware of the bill. I keep abreast of the issues. My favorite TV show is *Face The Nation*."
- Midget wrestler The Haiti Kid appeared at the hearings and was quoted by the *Times* as saying: "Certainly this bill can't pertain to *midget* wrestling! There's never been any criticism of *that!*"
- The *Times* also reported that "Senator Bernstein said the foul tactics wrestling teaches youngsters and the anti-Americanism of such wrestlers as The Iron Sheik of Iran and Nikolai Volkoff of Russia 'disgust him.' He said, 'I used to think Bruno Sammartino was fair, and then I saw even him grind a peanut into another wrestler's eye.' "

AND NOW, INTRODUCING TO YOU, IN CENTER RING, THE WWF *WORLD* HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION . . .

After many long months of heated controversy, the editorial staff of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* upgraded the WWF heavyweight title and the tag team championship to *world* titles. The decision was a democratic one, based in large part on the mail response from *PWI* readers. According to the "Ratings Analysis" in the November 1985 issue, "the majority of your mail (about 60 percent) came out in favor of recognizing Hogan as a world champion."

WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING MATCH OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE 1985: CHRIS ADAMS VS. KEVIN VON ERICH



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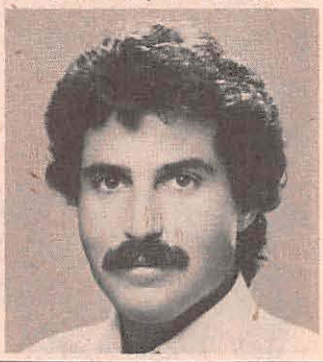
E.T.: PHONE HOME

AND GORDON SOLIE THOUGHT *HE* WAS SHAKEN UP WHEN HE WAS SHOVED ASIDE BY MAGNIFICENT MURACO ON *GEORGIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING* A FEW YEARS BACK

On February 21, ABC News' *20/20* program aired a report on professional wrestling by correspondent John Stossel. Toward the end of that report, Stossel and an ABC camera crew appeared in the dressing room area of Madison Square Garden. Stossel told "Dr. D" David Shultz that he thought wrestling was fake, and Shultz hit the reporter in the head twice with open-handed slaps. As a result of the incident, Stossel claimed he suffered pain when he heard certain noises and that he was experiencing a ringing in his ears.

A little over a month later, on March 28, Hulk Hogan and Mr. T appeared on the Lifetime Cable Network program *Hot Properties* hosted by comedian Richard Belzer. They were there to promote the March 31 WrestleMania card. During the interview, Belzer asked Hogan to demonstrate a hold on him. Hogan placed Belzer in a front facelock, Belzer slumped in Hogan's arms, and the WWF World champion let the comedian slip to the floor unconscious. Belzer cracked his head open, a pool of blood formed on the floor, and Hogan tried to revive him. Belzer leaped to his feet, announced a commercial, and ran backstage where he collapsed and was taken to New York City's Mt. Sinai Hospital for treatment.



YOU'VE SEEN THE WWF CHAMP IN ACTION (MAYBE) AND YOU'VE WATCHED THE ROCK 'N' WRESTLING CARTOON, NOW GO OUT AND BUY THE . . .

Hulk Hogan American Made headband
Hulk Hogan American Made T-shirt
Hulk Hogan beer mug
Hulk Hogan beverage glass
Hulk Hogan bubble gum cards
Hulk Hogan children's sweat suit
Hulk Hogan collage poster
Hulk Hogan cooler glass
Hulk Hogan foam finger
Hulk Hogan Hulkamania beach towel
Hulk Hogan Hulkamania painter's cap
Hulk Hogan Hulkamania poster
Hulk Hogan Hulkamania sweatshirt
Hulk Hogan Hulkamania T-shirt (red)
Hulk Hogan Hulkamania T-shirt (yellow)
Hulk Hogan Hulkster headband
Hulk Hogan Hulkster poster
Hulk Hogan life-size wall poster
Hulk Hogan mylar balloon
Hulk Hogan pajamas
Hulk Hogan paperback books
Hulk Hogan pictorial biography
Hulk Hogan plush stuffed doll
Hulk Hogan school supplies
Hulk Hogan stickers
Hulk Hogan Thunderlips doll
Hulk Hogan videocassette
Hulk Hogan wrestling superstars doll
Hulk Hogan wristwatch

IT LOOKS LIKE MOVING TO THE WWF *WAS* A GOOD CAREER MOVE FOR . . .

The British Bulldogs
Terry Funk
Randy Savage

WAS MOVING TO THE WWF *REALLY* SUCH A GOOD CAREER MOVE FOR . . .

Brian Blair
Matt Borne
Jim Brunzell
King Kong Bundy
Plowboy Frazier
Jim Neidhardt
The Spoiler
George Wells

MAYBE *LEAVING* THE WWF WOULD BE A GOOD CAREER MOVE FOR . . .

Adrian Adonis
Tony Atlas
Jimmy Hart
Lanny Poffo
David Sammartino
Rick Steamboat

MAYBE MOVING TO THE WWF *WOULD* BE A GOOD CAREER MOVE FOR . . .

Bugsy McGraw

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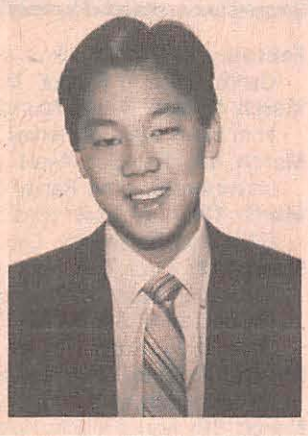
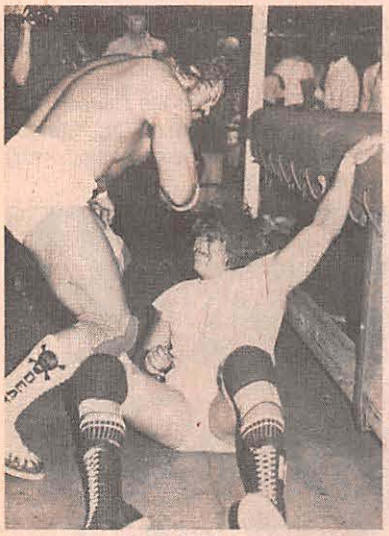
IF HE WEARS THOSE AND THEN ADDS EIGHT OR NINE PILLOWS UNDER HIS SHIRT HE MIGHT HAVE A PRETTY GOOD HALLOWEEN COSTUME

Victor Chi, a wrestling fan from Verona, New Jersey, correctly answered the questions asked in Dusty Rhodes' trivia game presented in the June 1985 issue of *PWI*. Victor won a pair of Rhodes' wrestling boots—the very boots Dusty wore when he won the NWA World title from Harley Race in 1979, and again in 1981. "It's something I'm very proud of," Victor said. "I'm going to show them around to my friends in school. Then I'll put them in my room. I'll display them with pride."



NAME OF THE YEAR
Debbie The Killer Tomato

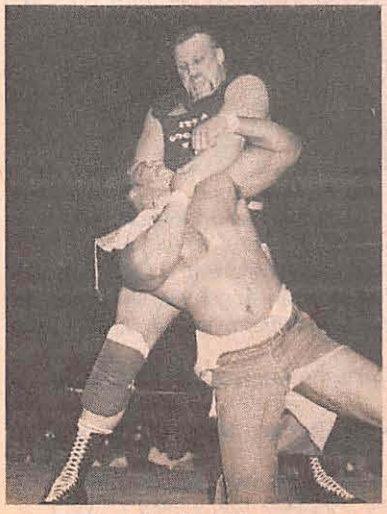
ON THE VERGE OF BEING *TRULY* AWESOME



Steve Williams

Nikita Koloff

Rick Rude



The Barbarian

The British Bulldogs

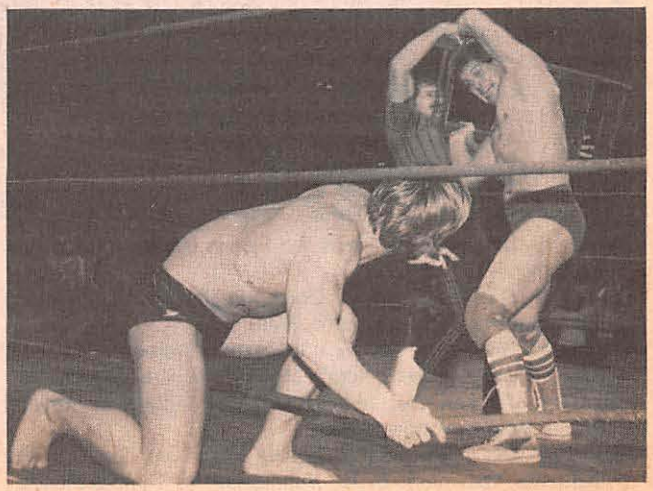
NOW THE KID WATCHES *THE A-TEAM,* AND WHEN HIS MOTHER CALLS HIM TO DINNER HE RESPONDS, "I'M NOT HUNGRY, FOOL!"

On July 31, the Associated Press news service ran a story about two brothers, ages 13 and 16, who were ordered not to watch wrestling on TV anymore by Staten Island, New York, Family Court Judge Daniel D. Leddy Jr.

Judge Leddy issued an order of protection to end *any* viewing of wrestling by the kids. "The boys' fundamental well-being demands that they cease being subjected to violence and the portrayal of violence in their home," Leddy said. It seems the boys practiced bodyslams, chokeholds, and figure-four leglocks on each other, injuring themselves and frightening their mother.

"On one occasion," AP reported, "the younger boy tried a sleeperhold on his mother as she was stir-frying vegetables in the kitchen, but she managed to break the hold without any injury to herself. Frequently, Leddy said, the younger son would address his mother in a bizarre manner, shaking violently, calling himself 'Rowdy Roddy Piper,' and describing the terrible things he was going to do to her."

WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING MATCH OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER 1985: CHRIS ADAMS VS. KEVIN VON ERICH



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CHAMPIONSHIP CHANGES '85

The following is a listing of most major title changes in 1985 to date:

January 1: Jay & Mark Youngblood win the U.S. tag team title from Jim Neidhardt & Krusher Khrushchev in Tampa, Florida.

January 3: Butch Miller & Luke Williams win the WWC North American tag team title from The Invaders in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

January 6: Brian Blair wins the Florida title from Jesse Barr in Orlando.

January 10: Mr. Pogo defeats Harley Race in Kansas City, Kansas, for the Central States title.

January 11: The Midnight Express win the World Class tag team title from The Fantastics in Ft. Worth, Texas ... Ole Anderson & Thunderbolt Patterson win the National tag team title in Cleveland from The Long Riders.

January 12: Don Running Bear & Billy Two Eagles win the Pacific Northwest tag team title in Portland, Oregon, from Mr. Ebony & Mike Miller.

January 16: Ted DiBiase wins the North American title from Brad Armstrong in Shreveport, Louisiana.

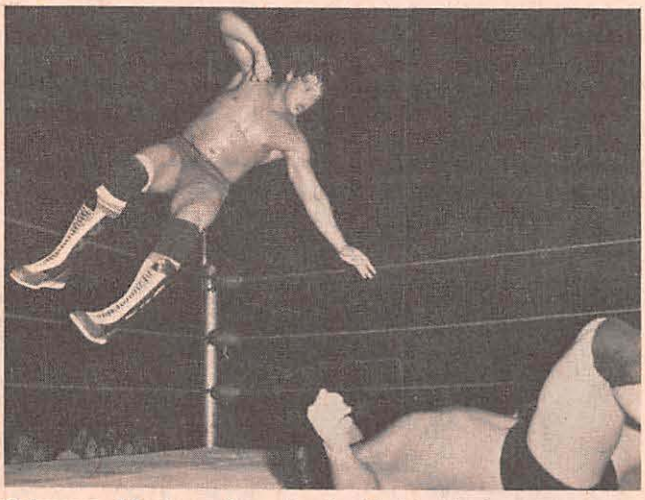
January 21: Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo win the WWF tag team title from Adrian Adonis & Dick Murdoch in Hartford, Connecticut.

January 21: Rick Rude wins the Florida title from Pez Whatley in Tampa.

January 27: Eddie Gilbert wins the Mid-Southern heavyweight title from Jerry Lawler in Memphis.

February 8: Chris Adams wins the World Class American title in Dallas by defeating Kerry Von Erich.

February 10: The Medic wins the WWC Puerto Rican championship from Black Gordman in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.



February 12: Jesse Barr wins the Florida title from Brian Blair in Tampa.

February 17: The Fabulous Ones win the Mid-Southern tag team title from The Interns in Memphis.

February 18: Lelani Kai wins the World Women's title from Wendi Richter in New York's Madison Square Garden.

February 23: Karl Steiner defeats Bobby Jaggers in Portland for the Pacific Northwest title.

February 26: Koko Ware & Norvell Austin win the U.S. tag team title from Mark & Jay Youngblood in Tampa, Florida.

February 27: Dory Funk Jr. wins the WWC Universal title from Carlos Colon in Bangor, Maine.

March 5: Mark & Jay Youngblood win the U.S. tag team title from Koko Ware & Norvell Austin in Tampa.

March 10: Hercules Ayala wins the WWC North American championship from Randy Savage in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

March 13: Terry Taylor wins the North American title from Ted DiBiase in Shreveport, Louisiana.

March 16: Buzz Tyler wins the Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title from Ron Bass in Greensboro, North Carolina ... Dusty Rhodes wins the NWA TV title from Tully Blanchard in Greensboro, North Carolina.

March 17: Randy Savage wins the Mid-Southern title from Jerry Lawler in Memphis.

March 18: Ivan & Nikita Koloff win the NWA World tag team belts from Dusty Rhodes & Manny Fernandez in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

March 23: Magnum T.A. wins the U.S. heavyweight title from Wahoo McDaniel in a steel cage match in Charlotte, North Carolina.

March 27: King Tonga & Dick Charland win the Canadian tag team championship in a tournament in Quebec City, Canada.

March 30: Jimmy Golden wins the Southeast championship from Porkchop Cash in Dothan, Alabama.

March 31: At WrestleMania in New York, two titles change hands: Wendi Richter regains the World Women's title, from Lelani Kai, and The Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff win the WWF World tag team belts from Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo.

April 6: Fidel Sierra & The Mexican Angel win the WWC tag team title from Joe Savoldi & Al Perez in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

April 7: Lord Humongous wins the Alabama title from Austin Idol in Dothan, Alabama.

April 10: Brian Blair wins the Southern title from Rick Rude in Tampa.

April 13: Kendo Nagasaki & Mega Maharishi win the Pacific Northwest tag team belts from Billy Two Eagles & Don Running Bear in Portland.

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April 16: Rick Rude & Jesse Barr win the U.S. tag team title from Mark & Jay Youngblood in Tampa.

April 28: Tully Blanchard regains the NWA TV title from Dusty Rhodes in Charlotte, North Carolina.

May 3: Ted DiBiase & Steve Williams win the Mid-South tag team championship from The Rock 'n' Roll Express in Houston.

May 4: "Mean" Mike Miller wins the Pacific Northwest title from Bobby Jaggers in Portland.

May 5: Hector Guerrero wins the Florida title from Jesse Barr in Orlando . . . The Fantastics defeat The Midnight Express in Irving, Texas, to win the vacant World Class tag team title.

May 7: Jerry Oske wins the Mid-Southern title from Randy Savage in Louisville, Kentucky.

May 16: Randy Savage wins the Mid-Southern title from Jerry Oske in Memphis . . . Fidel Sierra wins the WWC Puerto Rican championship from The Medic in Caquas, Puerto Rico.

May 18: Billy Jack Haynes & Lance Von Erich (then known as Ricky Vaughn) win the Pacific Northwest tag team belts from Kendo Nagasaki & Mega Maharishi in Portland.

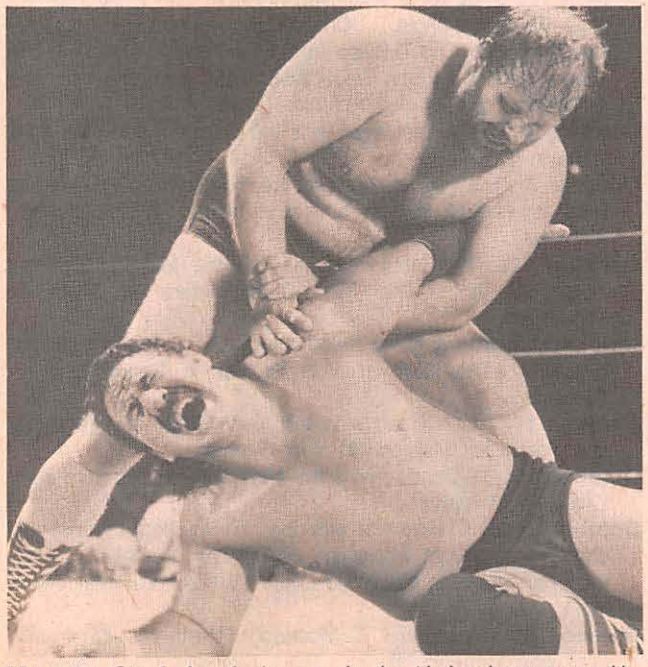
May 20: Hiro Saito wins the WWF junior heavyweight title from The Cobra in Hiroshima, Japan.

May 22: The Nightmare wins the North American title from Terry Taylor in Shreveport, Louisiana . . . Bad News Allen wins the Polynesian Pacific championship from Lars Anderson in Honolulu.

May 24: Tatsumi Fujinami & Kengo Kimura win a tournament final over Adrian Adonis & Dick Murdoch to win the WWF International tag team title in Kobe City, Japan.

May 26: Hercules Hernandez wins the Southern title from Brian Blair in Orlando, Florida.

May 27: Paul Diamond & Nick Kiniski win the Texas All-Star tag team championship from The Wild Maoris in San Antonio, Texas.



May 28: Ole & Arn Anderson win the National tag team title from Thunderbolt Patterson & Manny Fernandez in Charlotte, North Carolina . . . Dino Bravo defeats King Tonga in Montreal to fill the vacant Canadian International championship.

June 1: Karl Steiner & Mike Miller win the Pacific Northwest tag team title from Bobby Jaggers & Lance Von Erich in Portland.

June 3: Jerry Lawler wins the Mid-Southern title from Randy Savage in Memphis.

June 8: Black Bart wins the National title from Ronnie Garvin in Atlanta.

June 12: Rocky & Ricky Johnson win the Polynesian Pacific tag team title from Len Denton & Tony Anthony . . . Jacques & Raymond Rougeau win the Canadian International tag team title in a tournament final over King Tonga & Dick Charland in Quebec City, Quebec.

June 15: Carlos Colon regains the WWC Universal title from Dory Funk Jr. in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

June 17: Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo regain the WWF World tag team belts from Nikolai Volkoff & The Iron Sheik in Poughkeepsie, New York . . . Ron Fuller wins the Alabama championship from Lord Humongous in Birmingham, Alabama.

June 21: Sgt. Slaughter defeats Larry Zbyszko for the Americas title in Chicago . . . Butch Miller & Luke Williams win the WWC tag team title from Invader III & The Medic in Manati, Puerto Rico.

June 22: Jonathan Boyd & Rip Morgan win the Mid-Southern tag team title in Memphis when they defeat The Fabulous Ones.

June 24: Bota the Witch Doctor wins the Mid-Southern title from Jerry Lawler in Memphis . . . Chris Adams & Gino Hernandez defeat The Fantastics in Ft. Worth, Texas, to win the World Class tag team title.

June 30: Hercules Hernandez wins the Florida title from Hector Guerrero in Orlando.

July 5: Iceman Parsons defeats "Gentleman" Chris Adams for the World Class American title in Dallas . . . Scott Armstrong wins the Southeast U.S. junior heavyweight title from Bill Ash in Montgomery, Alabama . . . Chavo Guerrero & Al Madril win the Texas All-Star tag team title from Nick Kiniski & Paul Diamond in San Antonio, Texas.

July 6: Tito Santana defeats Greg Valentine to regain the WWF Intercontinental title in a cage match in Baltimore . . . Dusty Rhodes defeats Tully Blanchard in Charlotte, North Carolina, to become the new NWA TV champion.

July 7: Killer Brooks, Mark Lewin, & One Man Gang win the World Class six-man title from Kerry, Kevin, & Mike Von Erich in Reno, Nevada.

July 9: The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeat Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev in Shelby, North Carolina, to win the NWA World tag team title . . . The Flame defeats Bob Armstrong in Mobile, Alabama, to win the Southeast Continental title . . . Billy Jack Haynes & Wahoo McDaniel win the U.S. tag team title from Rick Rude & Jesse Barr in Tampa, Florida.

July 15: Iceman Parsons wins the World Class TV title from Killer Brooks in Ft. Worth, Texas.

July 16: Super Medic defeats Fidel Sierra for the WWC Puerto Rican title in San Juan.

July 21: Tully Blanchard defeats Magnum T.A. in Charlotte, North Carolina, to win the U.S. heavyweight title . . . Rick Rude defeats Mike Graham in a tournament final held in Orlando to win the Southern heavyweight title.

July 22: Phil Hickerson wins the Mid-Southern International title from Terry Taylor in Memphis . . . Butch Reed wins the Mid-South TV title from Dutch Mantel in Shreveport, Louisiana.

July 23: Jack Hart defeats Mike Graham in the finals of a tournament in Tampa to win the Florida title.

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July 29: Brian Adidas defeats Gino Hernandez for the World Class Texas title in Ft. Worth . . . Jerry Lawler defeats Bota the Witch Doctor in Memphis to win the Mid-Southern championship.

July 30: Stan Hansen defeats Shohei Baba in Fukuoka, Japan, to win the Pacific Wrestling Federation heavyweight title.

August 2: Harley Race wins the Missouri State title from Jerry Blackwell in St. Louis . . . Tommy Rich wins the Southeast Continental title from The Flame in Birmingham, Alabama.

August 3: Lance Von Erich wins a tournament final over Mike Miller in Portland to win the Pacific Northwest heavyweight title . . . Lars Anderson wins the Polynesian Pacific title from Bad News Allen in Honolulu . . . Eric Embry wins the WWC Puerto Rican title from Super Medic in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

August 6: Exotic Adrian Street wins the Southeast title from Austin Idol in Birmingham, Alabama.

August 7: Mike Von Erich wins the World Class Middle Eastern championship in a tournament final over Gino Hernandez in Tel Aviv.

August 10: Dick Murdoch wins the North American title from The Nightmare in New Orleans.

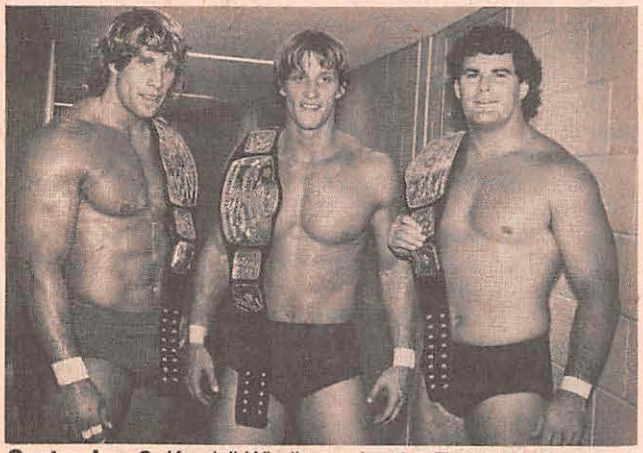
August 15: Gary Royal wins the NWA junior heavyweight title from Denny Brown in Kansas City, Missouri.

August 16: Tarras Bulba wins the Mid-Southern title from Jerry Lawler in Selmer, Tennessee.

August 24: Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake win the WWF World tag team belts from Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo in Philadelphia.

August 28: Wendell Cooley & Al Perez win the Mid-South tag team title from Steve Williams & Bob Sweetan (who was substituting for Ted DiBiase) in Shreveport, Louisiana.

August 31: Tiger Mask wins the NWA International junior heavyweight championship from Kuniaki Kobayashi in Tokyo.



September 2: Kendell Windham wins the Florida title from Jack Hart in Tampa . . . Kerry Von Erich, Kevin Von Erich, & Brian Adidas win the World Class six-man title from Killer Brooks, Mark Lewin, & One Man Gang in Ft. Worth, Texas . . . Gino Hernandez regains the World Class Texas title from Brian Adidas in Ft. Worth.

September 5: The Fabulous Ones win the Mid-Southern tag team title from Jonathan Boyd & Rip Morgan in Louisville, Kentucky.

September 6: Jerry Lawler wins the Mid-Southern title from Tarras Bulba in Martin, Tennessee.

September 15: Denny Brown wins the NWA junior heavyweight championship from Gary Royal in Atlanta.

September 16: Jonathan Boyd & Rip Morgan win the Mid-Southern tag team title from The Fabulous Ones in Memphis.

September 17: The Fabulous Ones win the Mid-Southern tag team title from Jonathan Boyd & Rip Morgan in Louisville, Kentucky.

September 21: The Invaders win the WWC North American tag team title from The Sheepherders in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

September 22: Terry Taylor wins the National heavyweight title from Black Bart in Atlanta . . . Marty Jannetty wins the Central States title from Mr. Pogo in Des Moines, Iowa.

September 23: Brickhouse Brown & Norvell Austin win the Southeast tag team belts from The Nightmares in Birmingham, Alabama.

September 24: Steve Simpson & Joe Savoldi win the Pacific Northwest tag team title from Karl Steiner & Mike Miller in Portland.

September 27: Brian Adidas wins the World Class Texas title from Gino Hernandez in Dallas.

September 28: Sherri Martel wins the AWA World women's title from Candi Divine in Chicago.

September 29: "Gorgeous" Jim Garvin & Steve Regal win the AWA World tag team championship from The Road Warriors in St. Paul, Minnesota . . . Chavo Guerrero wins the Texas All-Star title from Ted DiBiase in San Antonio, Texas . . . The Masked Hoods win the Texas All-Star tag team title from The American Force in San Antonio, Texas.

October 2: Wahoo McDaniel wins the Southern title from Rick Rude in Tampa.

October 5: The Nightmares win the Southeast tag team title from Brickhouse Brown & Norvell Austin in Birmingham, Alabama.

October 12: The Fabulous Ones win the Mid-Southern tag team title from The Kiwi Sheepherders in Nashville, Tennessee.

October 13: Ivan & Nikita Koloff win the NWA World tag team belts from The Rock 'n' Roll Express in Charlotte, North Carolina.

October 14: Butch Reed wins the North American championship from Dick Murdoch in New Orleans.

October 19: Bill Dundee wins the Mid-Southern title from Jerry Lawler in Memphis.

October 21: Phil Hickerson wins the Mid-Southern International championship from Mongolian Stomper in Memphis . . . Iceman Parsons wins the World Class TV title from John Tatum in Ft. Worth, Texas.

October 22: Mike Miller & Moondog Moretti win the Pacific Northwest tag team title from Steve Simpson & Joe Savoldi in Ft. Lewis, Washington.

November 4: Rick Rude wins the World Class American title from Iceman Parsons in Ft. Worth, Texas. □

THE Pro Wrestling ILLUSTRATED ACHIEVEMENT '85 AWARDS

The ballots have been cast and the votes are in. Wrestling's experts—the fans—have spoken. On the pages that follow, we proudly present the winners of the most prestigious fan ballot in all of wrestling: *Pro Wrestling Illustrated's* Achievement '85 awards

OVER THE YEARS that the fans have been selecting the winners of the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Achievement Awards, the poll has become perhaps the singlemost important barometer of the professional wrestling world.

And if that barometer can be considered accurate, then 1985 was a most important year for wrestling.

The ballot for your voting was presented in the January 1986 issue of *PWI*, and the mail virtually flooded our offices. Despite the monumental task of tabulating the votes, we enjoyed sorting through all your responses. We took particluar interest in the added comments many of you sent with your ballots, some of which appear in the discussions of the individual category winners.

Winners in three of the nine categories are repeat winners from 1984; two other winners this year were strong runners-up in the 1984 voting. This indicates a remarkable sense of stability in a sport that has undergone stormy changes over the past 12 months. Many of those changes are outlined further in "1985: The Year In Review," beginning on page 25.

Yet, if the category winners themselves display a sense of stability, perhaps a look at the average number of votes in the "Votes For Others" column is an indication that wrestling fans are becoming restless with the state of the sport, and that big changes are ahead in 1986. The number of ballots received this year increased only about 5½ percent over last year (58,000 as opposed to 55,000). But the average number of "Votes For Others" increased by more than 20 percent (13,549 as opposed to 11,275).

Another statistic: In six of the nine categories, the winner received fewer than 1,400 votes more than the first runner-up; in one case, Manager of the Year, the margin was only 66 votes. This underscores the importance of paying close attention to the top runners-up in the various categories.

The Achievement '85 awards present a remarkable overview of the sport not only in 1985, but through the past decade and a half. A list of "Past Winners" appears with each category, providing a unique look at the history of wrestling. And when you look at the list of winners and runners-up in this year's voting, you can glean some indications of where wrestling may be headed in the future.

A few notes on the history of the *PWI* Achievement Awards: You'll notice that in two categories the list of "Past Winners" doesn't stretch all the way back to 1972, when the fans were first polled. This is because the award for Most Improved Wrestler of the Year was created in 1978, while the first *PWI* Editors' Award was presented in 1981. It should also be noted that prior to 1981, the results of the year-end fan poll were presented in our now-defunct sister publication *Sports Review Wrestling Annual*.

With all this introduction out of the way, we can now move on to the categories and the winners. No doubt you'll be pleased by the winners in some categories and outraged by others. But no matter what your personal opinion, the fact remains that these awards are a reflection of the *collective* opinion of wrestling greatest experts—the fans. Your decision is now final, and the award winners have become an integral part of wrestling history.

Turn the page, and let's take a closeup tour of that chunk of history that is Professional Wrestling: 1985.

ACHIEVEMENT '85
ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

WITH THE ROAD WARRIORS winning Tag Team of the Year for a third year in a row, Steve Williams capturing Most Improved Wrestler of 1985, and Hulk Hogan capturing honors as Most Popular Wrestler of this year, you might say that wrestling fans are developing a definite preference for power, strength, and tenacity.

Such is certainly the case with 1985's Rookie of the Year, The Barbarian.

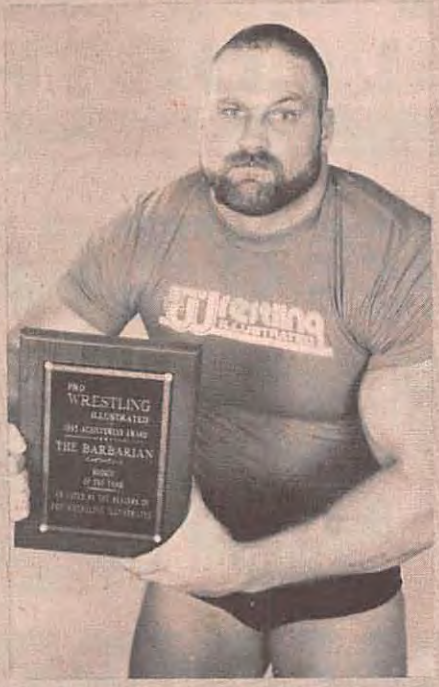
An awesome power in the Mid-South area, The Barbarian stands 6'6" and weighs 320 pounds. His physique is characterized by layer upon layer of pure muscle, and many fans have said that The Barbarian is in fact more powerful than the Mid-South's other predominant strongman, Butch Reed.

"Watching The Barbarian wrestle is like watching films of a tornado destroying a trailer park," wrote Ed Roman of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. "There's a certain fascination that comes with watching pure destruction take place, and that's how I see The Barbarian.

"There's no question in my mind that The Barbarian has *got* to be considered as being in the same class as The Road Warriors and Nikita Koloff. He's a powerful juggernaut. He doesn't let anyone or anything stand in his way. I don't know if I can say I admire him, but I appreciate and respect what he's capable of doing in the ring.

"Besides, wait until he gets a few years of experience under his belt. Then we'll *really* see what kind of destruction The Barbarian is capable of. I'll wager that in less than five years he dominates the singles ratings the same way the Warriors dominate the tag teams."

THE BARBARIAN
11,439 votes

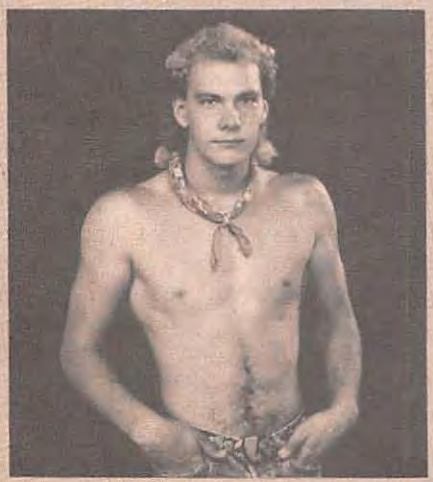


PAST WINNERS

1984: Mike Von Erich
1983: Angelo Mosca Jr.
1982: Brad Armstrong
1981: David Sammartino
1980: Terry Taylor
1979: Sweet Brown Sugar
1978: Tommy Rich
1977: Rick Steamboat
1976: Bob Backlund
1975: Ric Flair
1974: Larry Zbyszko
1973: Cowboy Bob Orton/Tony Garea (tie)
1972: Mike Graham

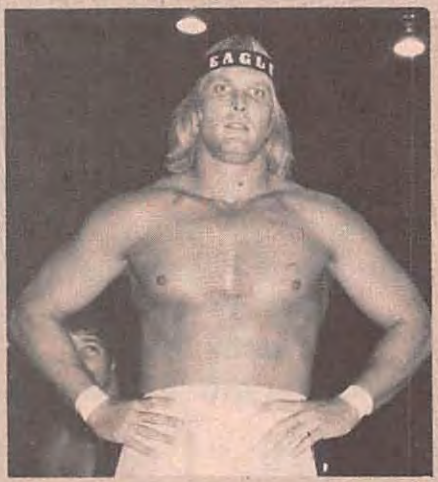
RUNNERS-UP

KENDELL WINDHAM
10,616 votes



First runner-up: Fans in Florida who recall the excellence of a rookie youngster by the name of Barry Windham are experiencing deja vu: Barry's younger brother Kendell has captured the imagination of the Florida area fans. He has also captured the Florida title and enough votes from his supporters to propel him into a strong first runner-up finish.

STARSHIP EAGLE
7,912 votes



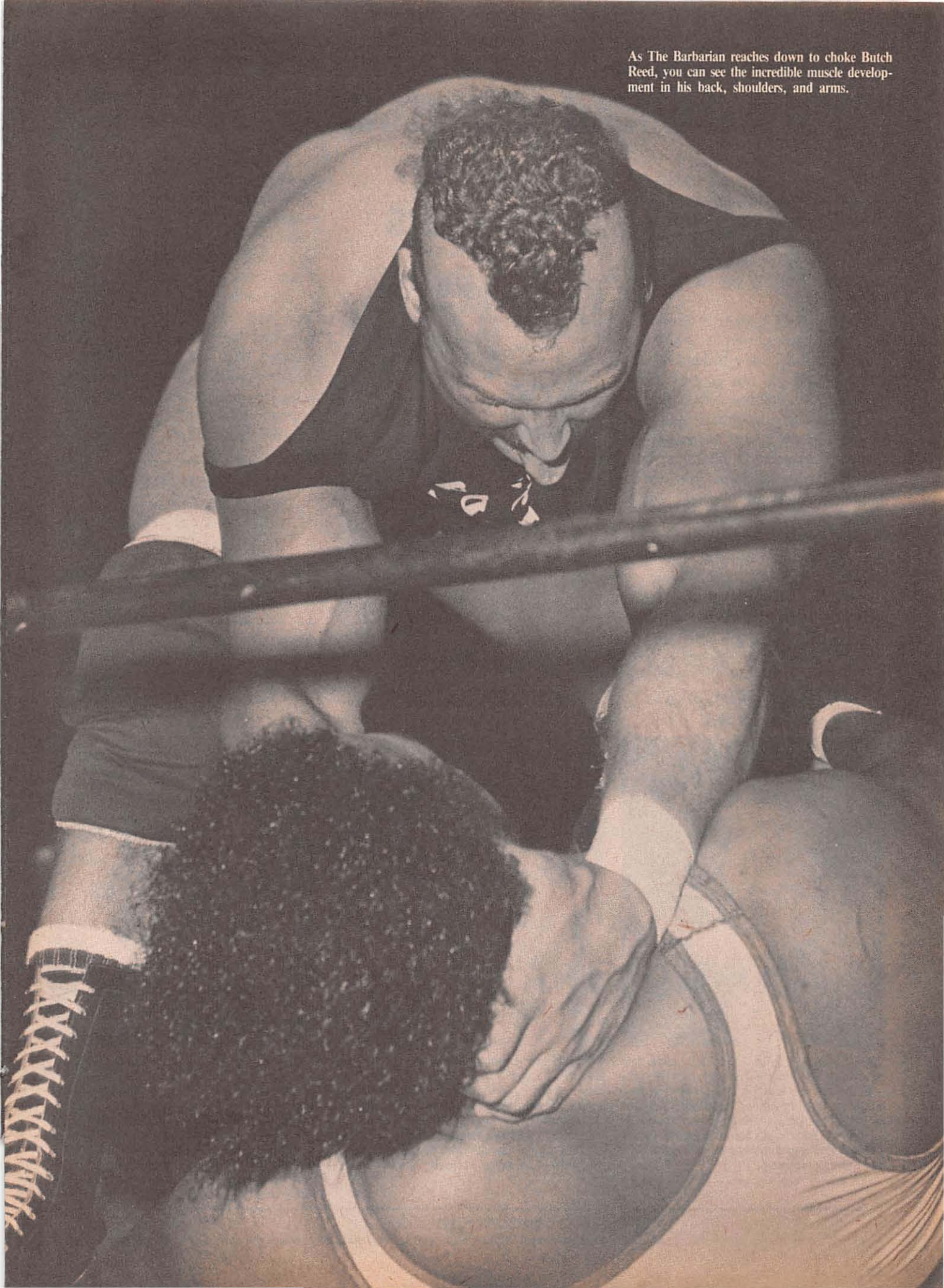
Second runner-up: Some fans are already beginning to call him a young Hulk Hogan in the making, but Starship Eagle would prefer to sidestep any comparisons to The Hulkster. A fast-rising star in the World Championship area, Eagle has impressed many fans with his physical size, his mental discipline, and his devotion to daily training.

SAM HOUSTON
7,613 votes

Third runner-up: Sam Houston calls his pinfall victory over Superstar Graham in a six-man match at the July 6 Great American Bash "the greatest moment of my life." His fans call it an indication of greater things to come. Houston is being trained by Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A., and no young wrestler could hope for two better mentors anywhere in the world.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (12,123)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Ricky Vaughn, Cpl. Kirschner, Big John Harris, Edcar Thomas, and The Snowman.



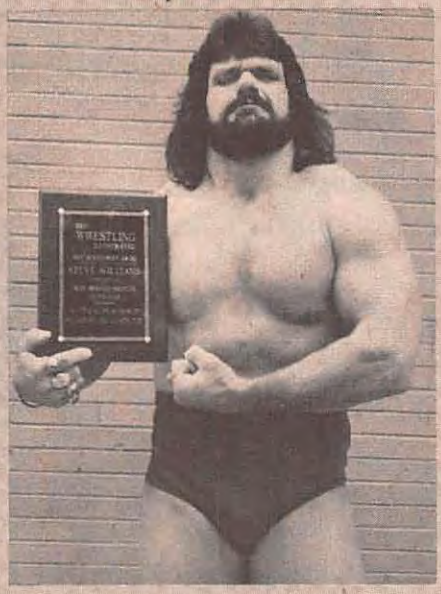
As The Barbarian reaches down to choke Butch Reed, you can see the incredible muscle development in his back, shoulders, and arms.

ACHIEVEMENT '85

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

STEVE WILLIAMS

12,914 votes



THE FACT THAT Steve Williams is one of the most hated men in wrestling and was still was voted Most Improved Wrestler of the Year strongly indicates just how far "Dr. Death" has come in the eyes of objective wrestling fans.

"I'm not crazy about all of Steve Williams' ring tactics," wrote Dan Tynan of Houston. "If I were making my selection based the use of pure wrestling science, Williams would not be my choice. But objectively evaluating his ring success, I have to swallow my pride and give credit where credit is due. Williams is tough. He was a three-time All-America football star at the university of Oklahoma, and he's enjoyed the rare success of bringing that gridiron toughness into the squared circle with him. Williams is kind of like a Road Warrior—I don't always like the tactics, but I admire the ability.

"I've been following Mid-South wrestling for a lot of years, and when Williams came to the area I didn't think much of him. I didn't think much of him at the beginning of 1985 either, but now, after seeing him and Ted DiBiase hold the Mid-South tag team belts, and after hearing about how he bounced back the same day after a 108-stitch eye injury—well, I just had to make him my choice for 1985's Most Improved Wrestler."

So did nearly 13,000 other fans.

PAST WINNERS

1984: Billy Jack Haynes
1983: Brett Wayne Sawyer
1982: Barry Windham
1981: Kevin Sullivan
1980: Tony Atlas
1979: Tommy Rich
1978: Dino Bravo

RUNNERS-UP

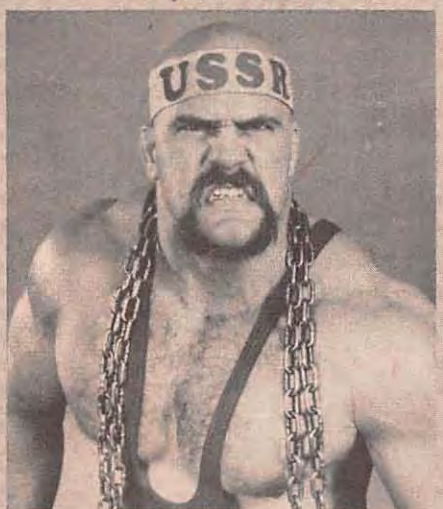
BRIAN ADIDAS

11,534 votes

First runner-up: Brian Adidas truly came into his own in the World Class area this year. For years Adidas was mired in preliminary matches, but his success in capturing the World Class Texas title, and in joining with Kerry and Kevin Von Erich to win the World Class six-man title, proves that Adidas is reaching his prime and becoming a true force in the sport.

NIKITA KOLOFF

10,376 votes



Second runner-up: It seems remarkable that Nikita Koloff is only in his second year as a professional. His July 6 match against Ric Flair at the first-ever Great American Bash card is already legendary, and he has remained one of Flair's most persistent and formidable challengers. It's hard to imagine where this powerful Russian will be in five years if he keeps improving at this rate.

RANDY SAVAGE

9,586 votes

Third runner-up: Randy Savage is one of the few individuals who fans feel made a good move by joining the WWF. Savage had been riding high in the Mid-Southern area, but his move to the WWF reaffirmed what his fans already knew: The "Macho Man" is a formidable contender for any title. His third place finish is more of an indication of the WWF fans first learning about his vast talents than any actual improvement he might have shown.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (14,867)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Magnum T.A., Iceman Parsons, Rick Rude, Terry Taylor, and Brutus Beefcake.

Steve Williams hurls Rick Morton into the ropes. Williams and his partner, Ted DiBiase, had many exciting matches against The Rock 'n' Roll Express in 1985.

ACHIEVEMENT '85

MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

NEVER BEFORE IN the history of the year-end awards has anyone captured the Most Hated Wrestler of the Year award twice in a row.

But never before in the history of professional wrestling has there been an individual like Roddy Piper. And never before in his career has Piper achieved such a level of animosity from fans from coast to coast.

In the past 11 issues of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Piper was rated number one in the Most Hated category five times and number two three times. As dubious a record as that is, it is still remarkable.

Piper has had some year.

As Hulk Hogan and the WWF's "Rock 'n' Wrestling Connection" grew more popular, Piper grew more hated as he did everything in his power to destroy both Hogan and his rock music associations. Piper's role in WrestleMania *(see Match of the Year, page 50)* helped him become even more hated.

"If anyone deserves this award it's Roddy Piper," wrote Carla Mason of Baltimore. "As much as I love Hulk Hogan, I hate Piper that much more. Everything he does gets on my nerves, and it would please me just fine if Hogan could run him out of the sport forever."

Piper's uncanny knack for turning people against him grows more out of his grating personality than from anything he's achieved over the past 12 months. And as Piper continues to remain in the WWF spotlight, he's certain to continue to draw as much hatred as ever before. Maybe enough to win again next year.

RODDY PIPER

12,916 votes

PAST WINNERS

1984: Roddy Piper
1983: Greg Valentine
1982: Ted DiBiase
1981: Ken Patera
1980: Larry Zbyszko
1979: Greg Valentine
1978: Ric Flair
1977: Ken Patera
1976: Stan Hansen
1975: Greg Valentine
1974: The Great Mephisto
1973: Superstar Graham
1972: The Sheik

RUNNERS-UP

CHRIS ADAMS

11,632 votes

First runner-up: "Gentleman" Chris Adams may have turned against the Von Erichs more than a year ago, but his feud with Kevin Von Erich reached epic proportions in 1985. Adams received hate mail from all across the country and as far away as the Middle East as the result of his continuing battle with Kevin—a battle that still seems far from over.

TED DiBIASE

10,766 votes

Second runner-up: Some wrestlers are just wise guys and some wrestlers are good men who have strayed to the wrong path, but Ted DiBiase is clearly a man who is, deep down, an evil man. Every action DiBiase takes is characterized by a disregard for his fellow man. He has terrorized the Mid-South to become the number one hated man there, and the number two runner-up in this year's voting.

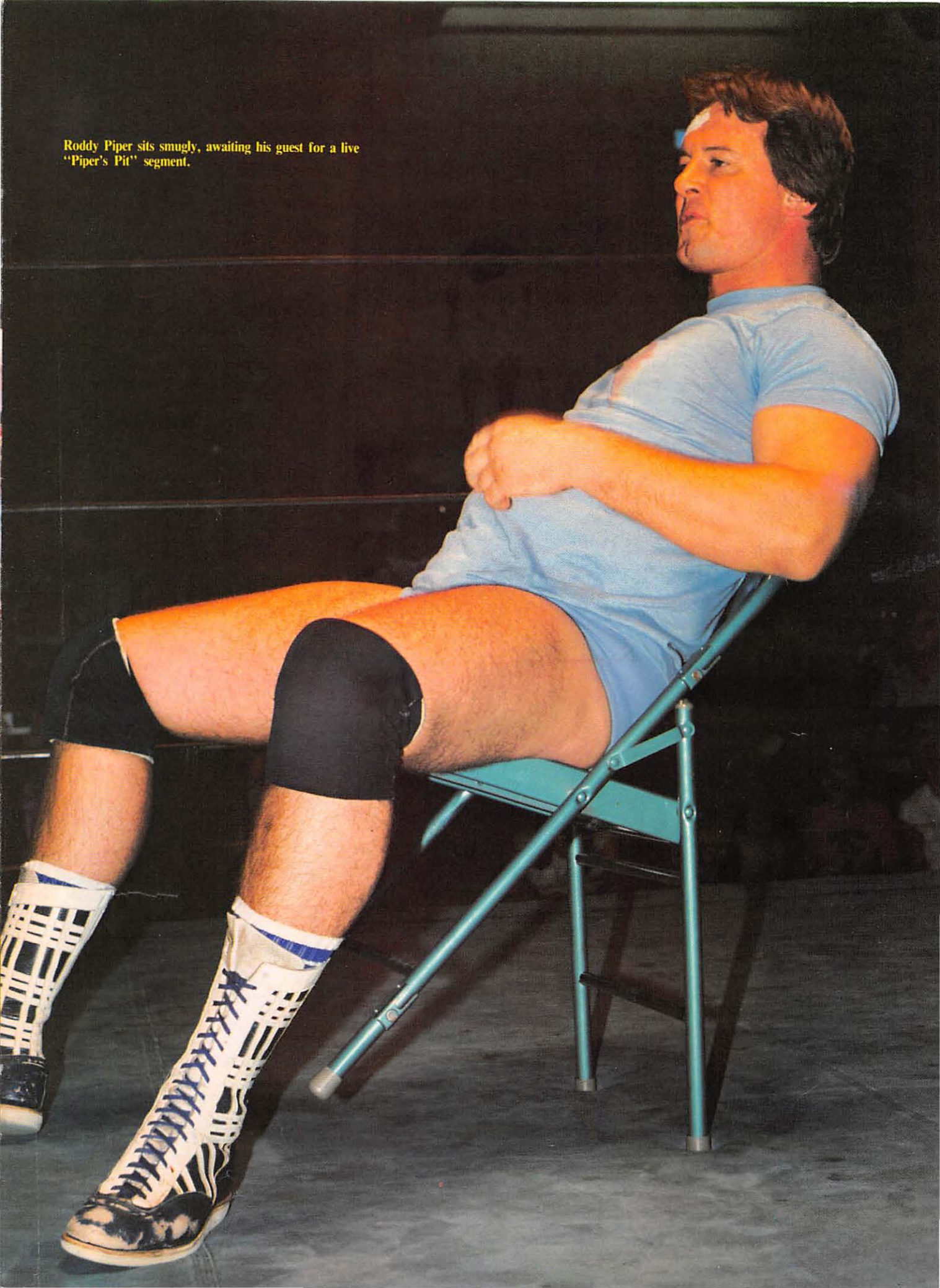
JOHN STUDD

9,174 votes

Third runner-up: Andre the Giant is one of the most popular wrestlers of all time. So it only seems natural that any man who would be successful in humiliating Andre would feel the wrath of not only the giant, but of wrestling fans everywhere. When John Studd cut Andre's hair (with the help of Bobby Heenan and Ken Patera), he virtually assured himself of a top finish in this year's Most Hated voting.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (13,723)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Tully Blanchard, Magnificent Muraco, Gino Hernandez, Nikita Koloff, and Jim Garvin.

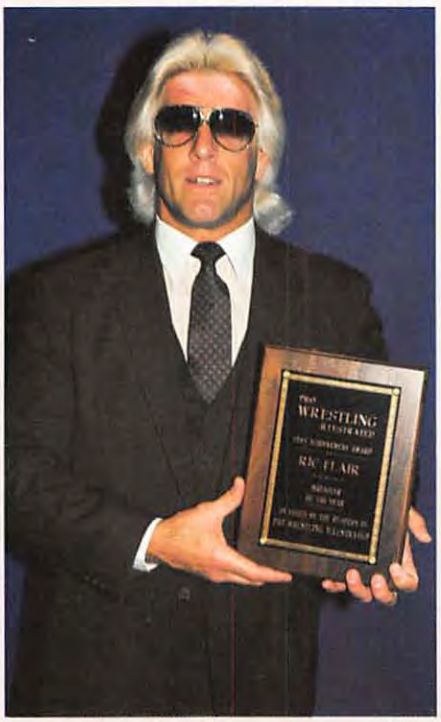


Roddy Piper sits smugly, awaiting his guest for a live "Piper's Pit" segment.

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

RIC FLAIR

13,793 votes



RIC FLAIR IS fond of saying that he "sets the pace for the rest of the wrestling world," and this year's victory in the Wrestler of the Year voting is certainly indication of the validity of his boast: This is Flair's second straight win in this all-important category.

And again, as in 1984, the voting was very close. Only about 800 votes separate Flair from first runner-up Hulk Hogan. But if you consider that Hogan was also first runner-up in 1984, and that Flair's margin of victory then was only 224 votes, and that Hogan has been the object of massive media exposure this year, then you begin to realize that Flair's victory in this category means much more than just a repeat performance of last year. It's a significant achievement of skill over hype.

"No matter which way you cut it, Ric Flair had a hell of a year," wrote Tom Riverton of Atlanta. "He held the NWA World belt for the entire year and defended it against all comers, scientific and rulebreaking. His matches with Magnum T.A. and Nikita Koloff in 1985 will be remembered as classics.

"But what sets Flair a cut above someone like Hulk Hogan, or even Rick Martel, is that he is *so* skilled. He is a master wrestling technician, and he takes pride in his achievements in the ring. And he places those ring achievements above stupidity like marketing himself as a beach towel. He's the greatest champion in the sport, and the greatest ambassador for the sport, anywhere on earth today."

PAST WINNERS

1984: Ric Flair
1983: Harley Race
1982: Bob Backlund
1981: Ric Flair
1980: Bob Backlund
1979: Harley Race
1978: Dusty Rhodes
1977: Dusty Rhodes
1976: Terry Funk
1975: Mr. Wrestling II
1974: Bruno Sammartino
1973: Jack Brisco
1972: Pedro Morales

RUNNERS-UP

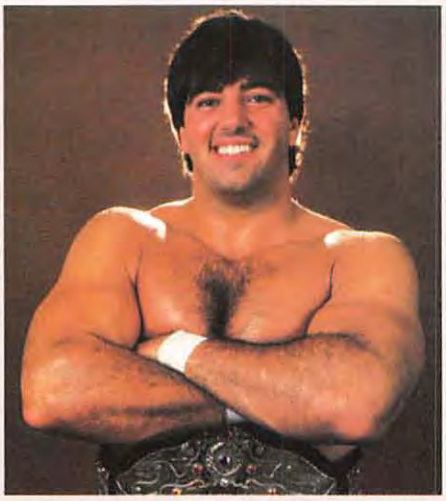
HULK HOGAN

12,989 votes

First runner-up: Hulkamania continued to run wild in 1985, and Hulk Hogan certainly has his fair share of supporters. Perhaps if Hogan had devoted more time to defenses of his WWF World title and less time to promoting himself as a media celebrity and mainstream television star, he might have beaten out Flair.

RICK MARTEL

10,711 votes



Second runner-up: Like Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan, Rick Martel held on to his world title throughout the entire year. Martel defended the AWA belt against both rulebreakers and scientific grapplers in 1985, and earned respect from fans throughout the world as a hard-working, though not particularly colorful, champion.

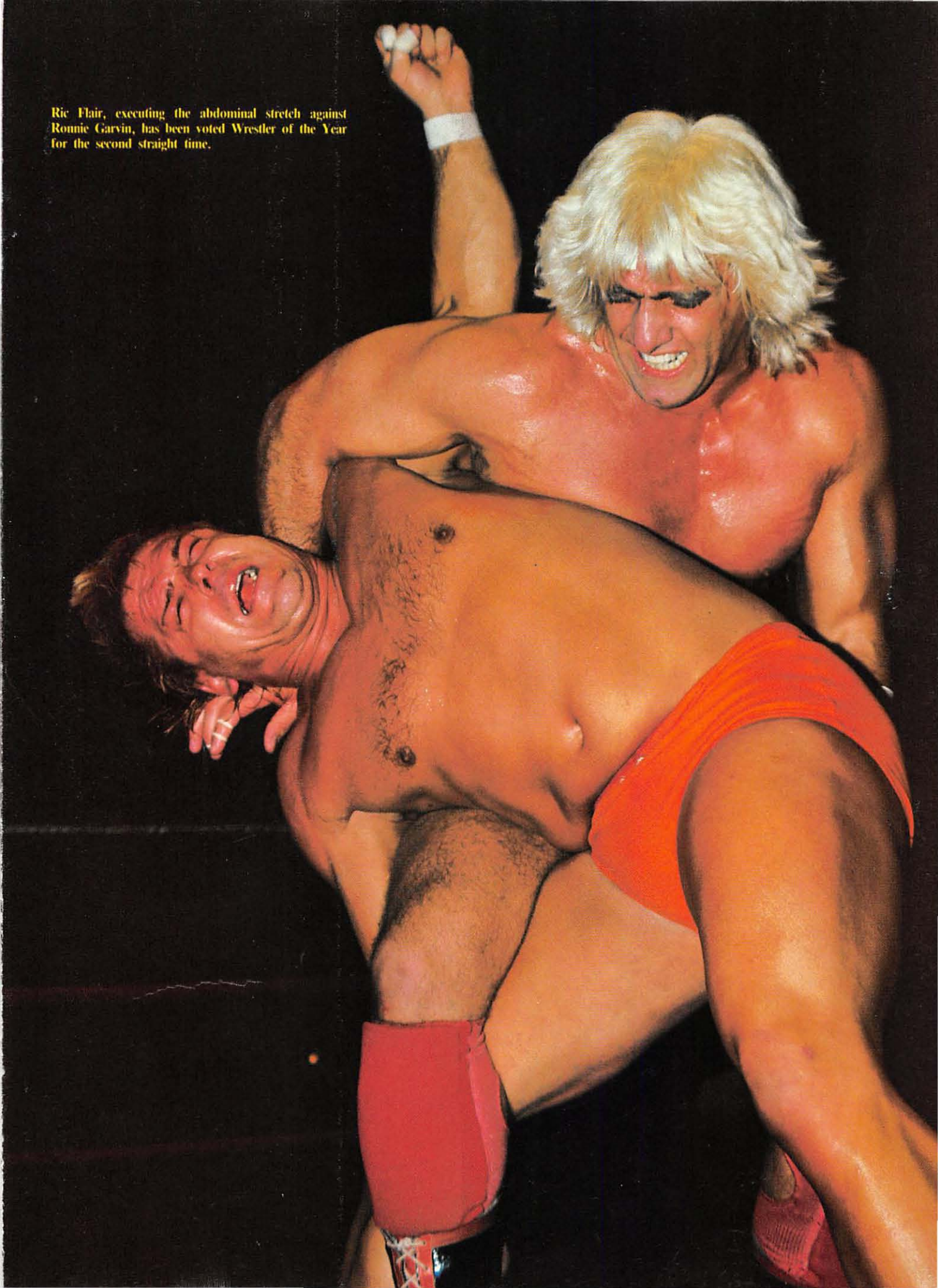
SGT. SLAUGHTER

7,610 votes

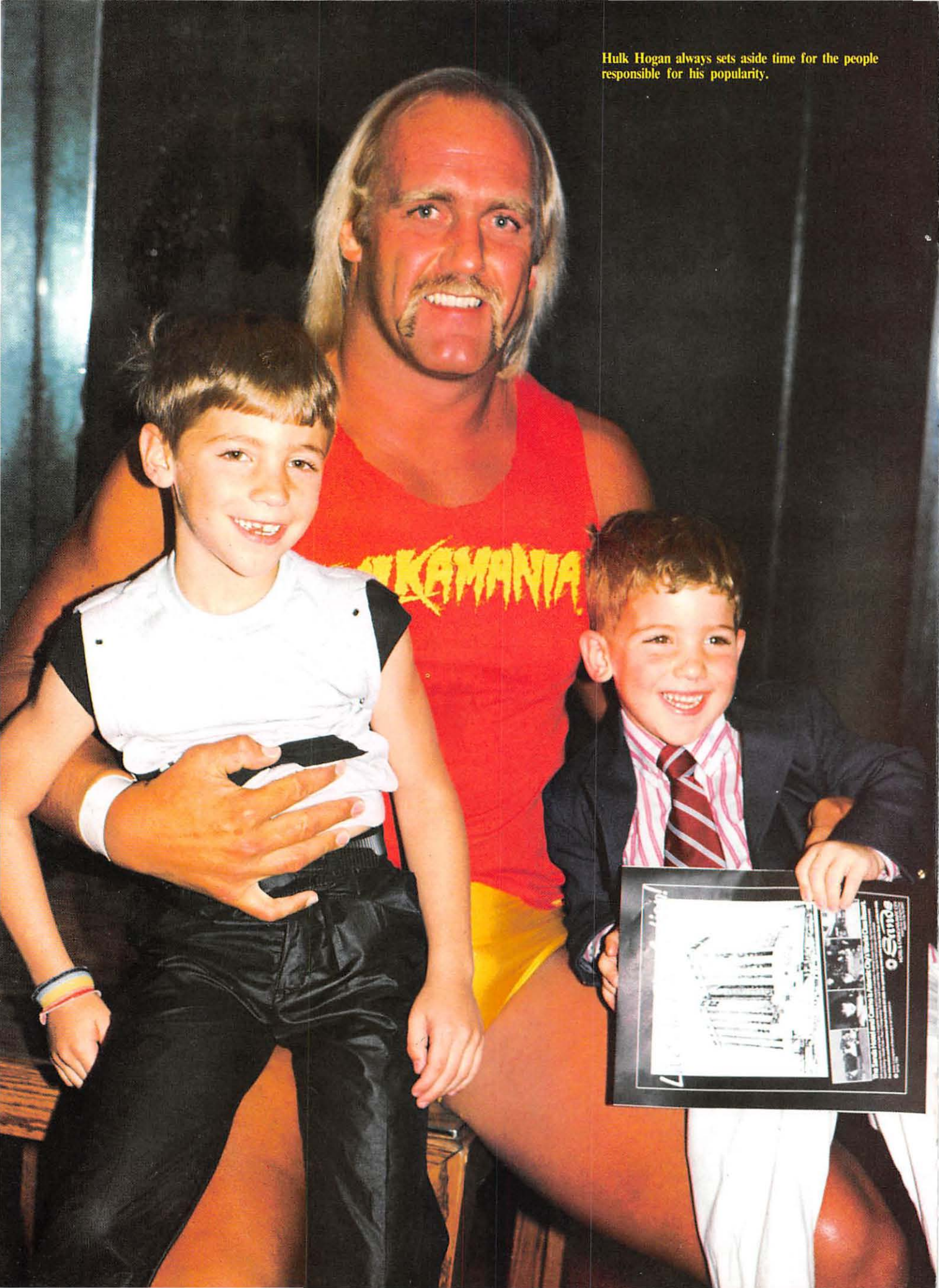
Third runner-up: Sgt. Slaughter surprised many *PWI* editors by edging into the third runner-up spot. Many fans' letters noted Slaughter's continuing love and devotion to America and his Americas title reign as reasons for voting for him. It also appears as if ESPN's presentation of AWA wrestling on cable, and the resulting added visibility of Slaughter, added to his vote total.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (13,466)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Kerry and Kevin Von Erich, Magnum T.A., Dusty Rhodes, and Tito Santana.



Ric Flair, executing the abdominal stretch against Ronnie Garvin, has been voted Wrestler of the Year for the second straight time.



Hulk Hogan always sets aside time for the people responsible for his popularity.

ACHIEVEMENT '85

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

THE RECIPIENT OF 1985's Most Popular Wrestler of the Year award might easily have been predicted even before the first envelope was opened.

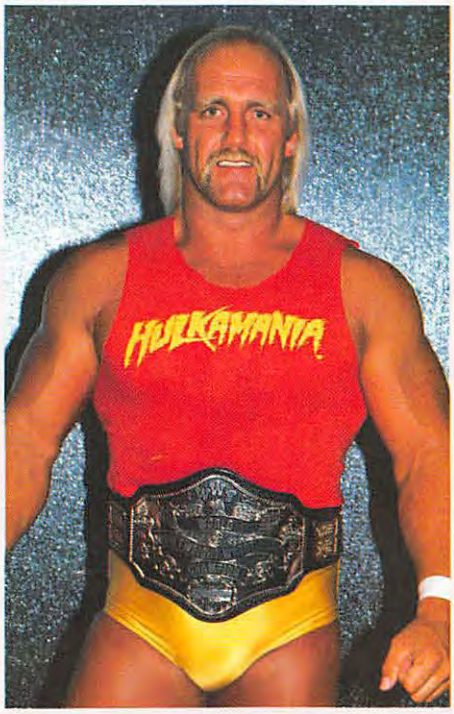
Hulk Hogan led the way in making professional wrestling more popular in 1985 than it's ever been before. Hogan's image on the covers of such magazines as *Sports Illustrated* and *US*, articles on on Hogan in those magazines plus *TV Guide*, *Time*, and *Newsweek*, and his appearances on television including *The Tonight Show* with Joan Rivers, the Grammy Awards presentation show, *Saturday Night Live*, and *Saturday Night's Main Event*, all contributed to making him the most visible and popular star in the sport today.

Appropriately, the 17,189 votes that Hogan received to capture honors as Most Popular Wrestler of the Year marks the highest total of any Achievement '85 award recipient.

"There is no question in my mind that when the average man in the street thinks of wrestling, he thinks of Hulk Hogan," wrote Richard Nash of New York City. "A lot of wrestling fans may not like Hogan, and personally I have reservations about the depth of his wrestling skills. But let's be objective here: The category is based on *popularity*, and even people who don't like Hogan as a wrestler have to realize that the man is popular. I don't think there's another individual anywhere in the sport who really comes close to matching what Hogan has achieved."

HULK HOGAN

17,189 votes



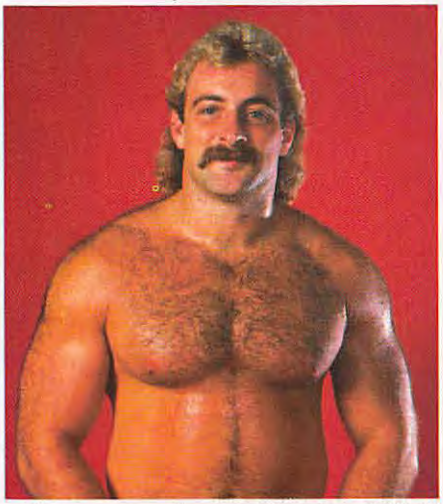
PAST WINNERS

1984: Kerry Von Erich
1983: Jimmy Snuka
1982: Andre the Giant
1981: Tommy Rich
1980: Mr. Wrestling II
1979: Dusty Rhodes
1978: Dusty Rhodes
1977: Andre the Giant
1976: Wahoo McDaniel
1975: Mil Mascaras
1974: Billy Robinson
1973: Chief Jay Strongbow
1972: Jack Brisco/Fred Curry (tie)

RUNNERS-UP

MAGNUM T.A.

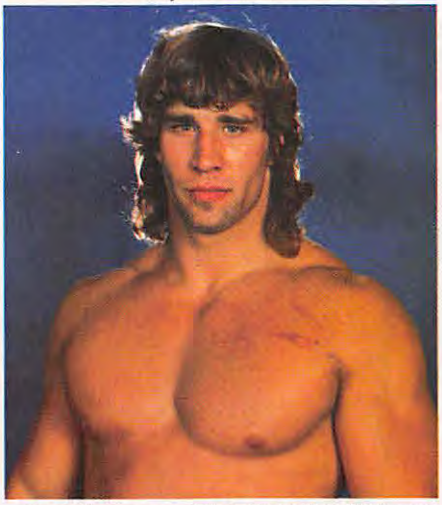
12,102 votes



First runner-up: As one of the stars of *World Championship Wrestling* on Atlanta's WTBS, Magnum T.A. has been aptly called "the superstar of the SuperStation." Indeed, Magnum's good looks and his success in the ring have won him many new fans in 1985. It's interesting to note that Magnum received only about 600 votes less than 1984's winner, Kerry Von Erich.

KERRY VON ERICH

11,347 votes



Second runner-up: When Kerry Von Erich won this award in 1984, a strong majority of his votes came from Texas. And though Kerry dropped down to second runner-up this year, his base of support did widen as only about half of his votes came from Texas, while the rest came from the Midwest, the Southeast, and the Northeast.

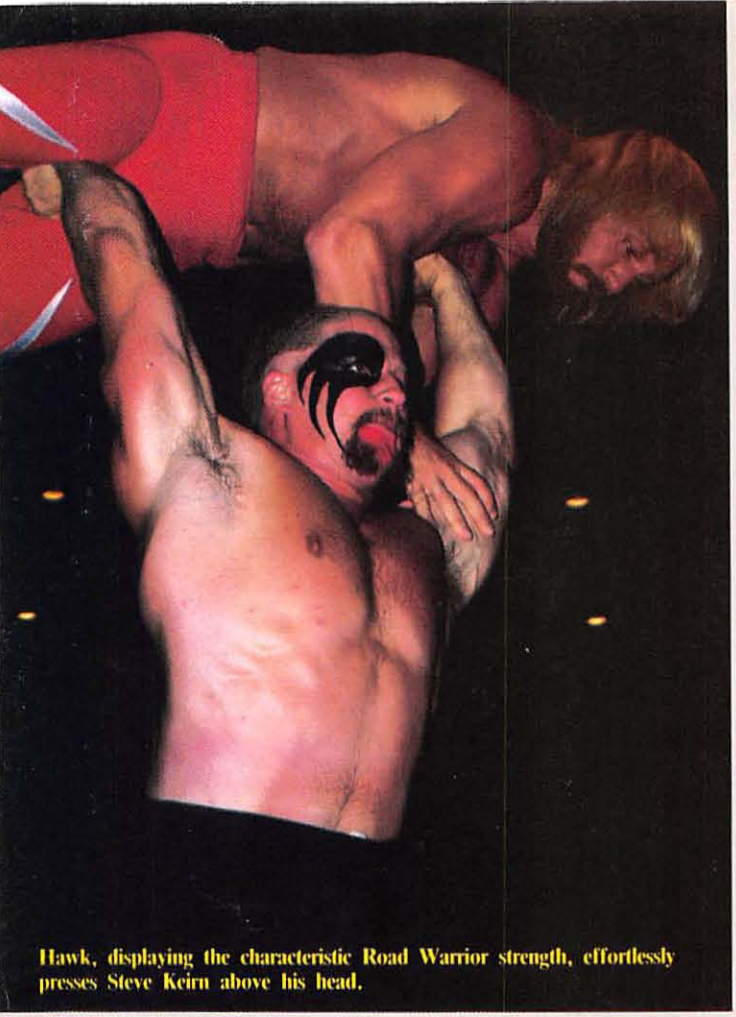
TITO SANTANA

8,515 votes

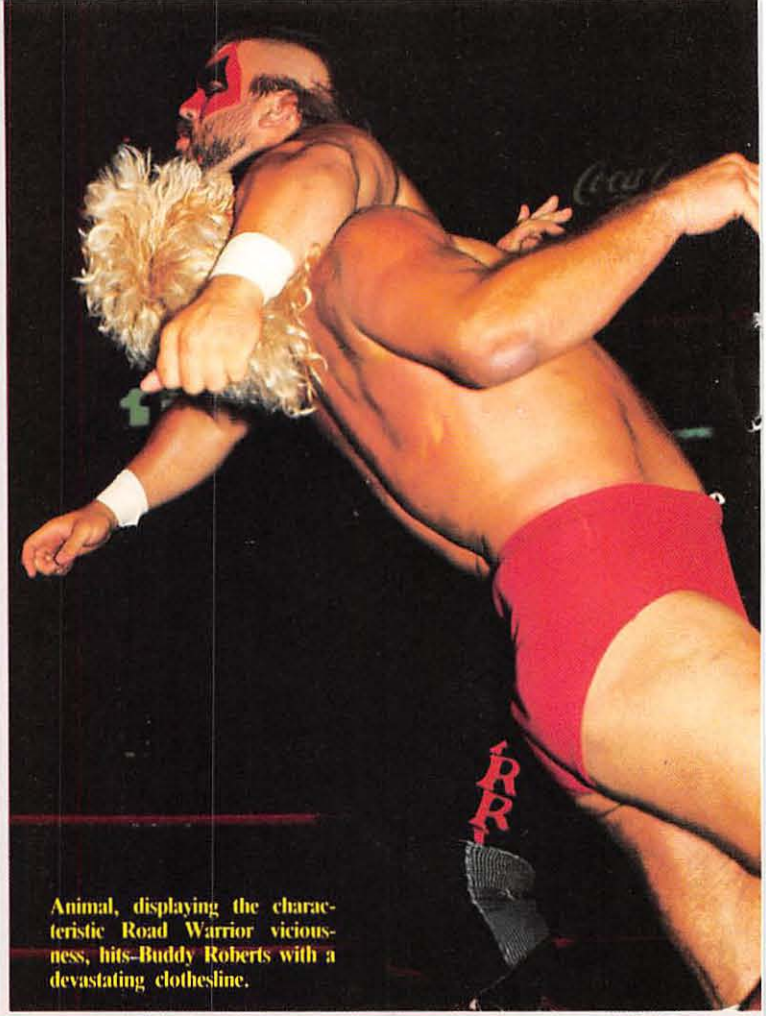
Third runner-up: 1985 was filled with both pain and glory for Tito Santana. He recovered from knee surgery early in the year and battled back to regain the WWF Intercontinental title from Greg "The Hammer" Valentine. His success in that title quest carried him to new heights of popularity.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (10,913)

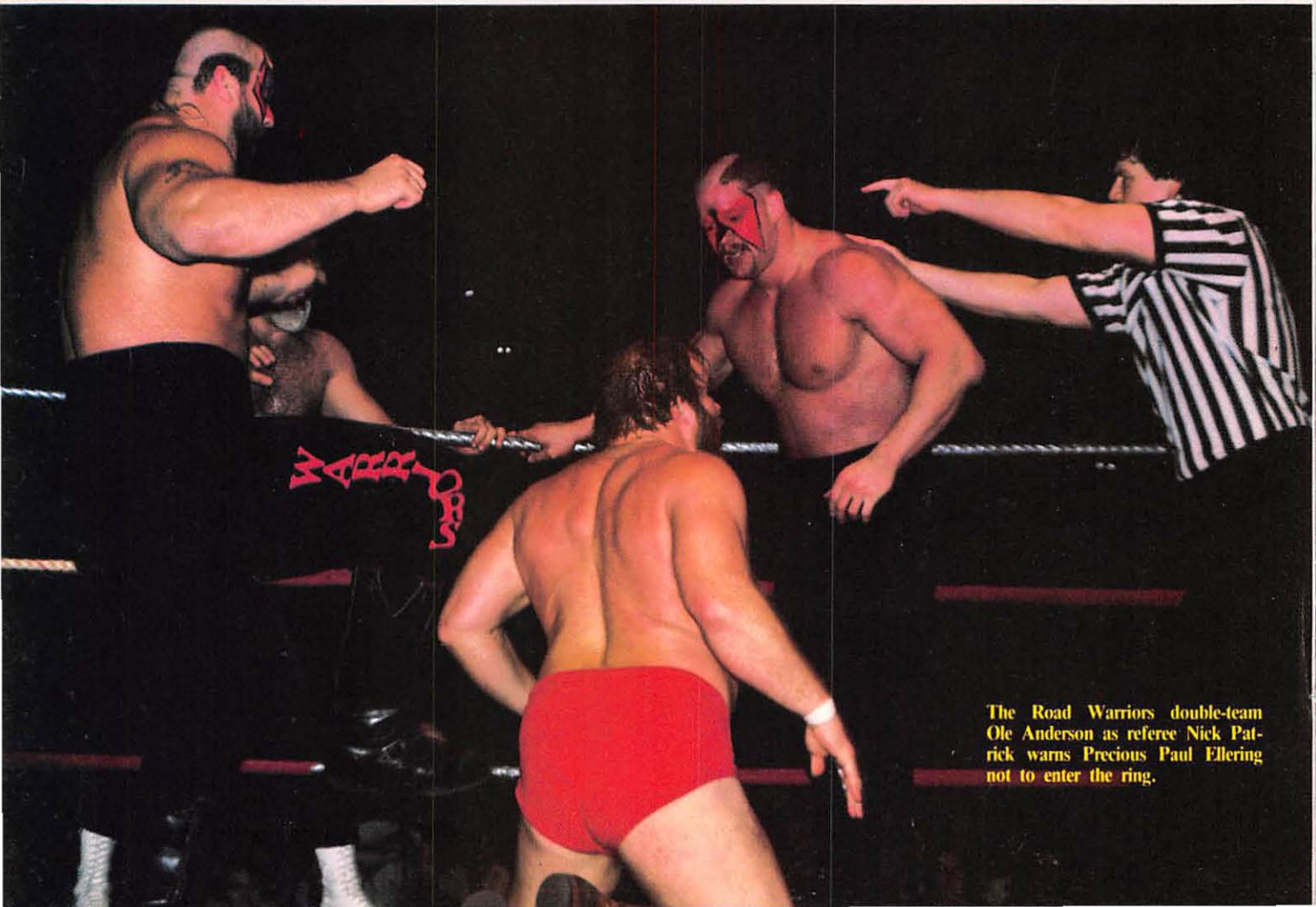
Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Rick Steamboat, Hacksaw Duggan, Dusty Rhodes, Rick Martel, and Terry Taylor.



Hawk, displaying the characteristic Road Warrior strength, effortlessly presses Steve Keirn above his head.



Animal, displaying the characteristic Road Warrior viciousness, hits Buddy Roberts with a devastating clothesline.



The Road Warriors double-team Ole Anderson as referee Nick Patrick warns Precious Paul Ellering not to enter the ring.

ACHIEVEMENT '85

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

THE ROAD WARRIORS

16,381 votes

DYNASTY IS PERHAPS the only word applicable to the tag team known throughout the world as "The Legion of Doom."

The New York Yankees were a dynasty in baseball when they won the World Series five years in a row, from 1949 through 1953 (and 12 out of the 18 years from 1936 through 1953).

The Boston Celtics were a dynasty in basketball when they won the NBA title for eight straight years, from 1959 through 1966.

The New York Islanders were a dynasty in hockey when they won the Stanley Cup four years straight, from 1980 through 1983.

The Road Warriors *are* a dynasty in professional wrestling. This year marks the third year straight that they've won Tag Team of the Year honors—an unprecedented achievement made even more remarkable by the fact that 1985 was only the Warriors' third complete year in the pro ranks!

And a quick look at the vote totals over the past three years indicates that the Warriors are continuing to gain new supporters: In 1983 they picked up 12,397 votes, in 1984 that number rose to 13,984, and this year they received 16,381. That number ranks second only to Hulk Hogan's total as Most Popular Wrestler of the Year in the 1985 voting.

"What can one say about Hawk and Animal?" wrote Jim Carey of Boston. "Even now that they don't have championship belts around their waists—and they'll get them back whenever they feel like it— they're *still* the greatest tag team in the world today. Power, charisma, drive, and determination, all backed by the greatest managerial mind in the sport. They're nothing short of awe-inspiring. What's truly incredible is that they have years to go before they hit their prime!"

PAST WINNERS

1984: The Road Warriors
1983: The Road Warriors
1982: Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell
1981: The Fabulous Freebirds
1980: Jimmy Snuka & Ray Stevens
1979: Ivan Putski & Tito Santana
1978: Rick Steamboat & Paul Jones
1977: Gene & Ole Anderson
1976: The Executioners
1975: Gene & Ole Anderson
1974: Jimmy & Johnny Valiant
1973: Nick Bockwinkel & Ray Stevens
1972: Bruiser & Crusher

RUNNERS-UP

TED DiBIASE & STEVE WILLIAMS

12,412 votes

First runners-up: Ted DiBiase and Steve Williams may only have held the Mid-South tag team title for about three months, but their influence on that area has been more wide-ranging than any two championship belts could indicate. DiBiase and Williams set new standards of tag team brutality and teamwork in an area of the country noted for nurturing superb tag teams.

IVAN KOLOFF & NIKITA KOLOFF

10,815 votes

Second runners-up: The combination of "The Russian Bear" and "The Russian Nightmare"—Ivan and Nikita Koloff—succeeded in making the Russian presence a dominant force on the NWA wrestling scene in 1985. The combination, characterized by Ivan's strategic mind and Nikita's awesome power, captured the NWA World tag title twice in 1985, once from Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez, and later from The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

DYNAMITE KID & DAVEY BOY SMITH

8,743 votes

Third runners-up: In something of a surprise finish, Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy Smith, otherwise known as The British Bulldogs, snared the third runner-up spot. Fans voting for the Bulldogs cited their remarkably swift and precise teamwork plus their peerless repertoire of finishing maneuvers as reasons for choosing them.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (11,027)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runners-up spot include Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Chris Adams & Gino Hernandez, The Midnight Express, and The Fabulous Ones.

Mr. T hoists Roddy Piper upon his shoulders as Hulk Hogan leads the cheers of 22,000 fans in Madison Square Garden and hundreds of thousands more nationwide.

ACHIEVEMENT '85
MATCH OF THE YEAR

HULK HOGAN & MR. T vs. RODDY PIPER & PAUL ORNDORFF
15,139

OVER 22,000 FANS packed Madison Square Garden to see it, some paying as much as $100 for ringside seats. Literally hundreds of thousands of fans flocked to see it at over 125 closed-circuit locations nationwide. And a videocassette tape of it has spent much of the latter half of 1985 on the *Billboard* top-10 sales chart.

"It," of course, is the March 31, 1985, WrestleMania card, and it entered the national pop culture consciousness this year as the largest and most ornate wrestling promotion ever held.

The main event featured Liberace as timekeeper, Muhammad Ali as special referee, and Billy Martin as ring announcer. And, not incidentally, Hulk Hogan and Mr. T in the ring against Roddy Piper and Paul Orndorff.

And while the unprecedented hype may have been distasteful to many wrestling fans, the wrestling action itself was not. It was your Achievement '85 choice for Match of the Year, winning its category by a larger margin than any other this year.

"I was really getting sick of hearing the WWF announcers trying to pump up closed-circuit sales," wrote Glenn Mason of Ridgewood, New Jersey. "But once the hype was over and the card began, let's face it: WrestleMania gave us fans some top-notch wrestling. The main event surprised me in that Mr. T was better than I expected, Hogan was great, and Piper and Orndorff crossed signals with the result seeing Orndorff pinned and an Orndorff-Piper feud in the offing. Strip away the hype and it was, simply stated, a great match."

PAST WINNERS

1984: Kerry Von Erich vs. Ric Flair *(Von Erich captures NWA World title)*
1983: Harley Race vs. Ric Flair *(Race wins seventh NWA World title)*
1982: Bob Backlund vs. Jimmy Snuka *(cage match)*
1981: Andre the Giant vs. Killer Khan
1980: Bruno Sammartino vs. Larry Zbyszko *(cage match)*
1979: Dusty Rhodes vs. Harley Race *(Rhodes wins NWA World title)*
1978: Bob Backlund vs. Superstar Graham *(Backlund wins WWF World title)*
1977: Superstar Graham vs. Bruno Sammartino *(Graham wins WWF World title)*
1976: Bruno Sammartino vs. Stan Hansen
1975: Bruno Sammartino vs. Spiros Arion
1974: Dory Funk Jr. vs. Jack Brisco
1973: Harley Race vs. Dory Funk Jr. *(Race wins first NWA World title)*
1972: Bruno Sammartino wins 22-man Los Angeles battle royal

RUNNERS-UP

WARRIORS VS. KOLOFFS
9,876 votes

First runner-up: Nearly 10,000 fans chose as their Match of the Year the April 18 contest between the AWA tag team champion Road Warriors and the NWA champion Ivan and Nikita Koloff. This first brutal meeting between these two teams was an awesome exhibition of power maneuvers, and promises to be just the first of a long series of matches.

FLAIR VS. NIKITA KOLOFF
9,632 votes

Second runner-up: The first Great American Bash card was held July 6 in Charlotte, North Carolina, and featured a main event that many fans felt was the best match of the year: the first meeting between NWA World champion Ric Flair and the mighty Russian Nikita Koloff. The match lasted nearly 45 minutes, with hardly a moment for either man to catch a breath.

MARTEL VS. BACKLUND
7,438 votes

Third runner-up: Some wrestling purists called the February 22nd match between Bob Backlund and Rick Martel in St. Paul the greatest match in AWA history. Backlund, who had received harsh criticism during his WWF title reign for not defending his belt against scientific opponents, was ironically challenging a skilled scientific champion. Although the match ended inconclusively when both men tumbled over the ropes and were counted out, few people left disappointed.

VOTES FOR OTHERS **(16,541)**

Some of the top vote-getting matches that did not capture a runner-up spot include Tito Santana's July 6 cage match victory over Greg Valentine in which he regained the WWF Intercontinental title, Kerry and Kevin Von Erich's October 6 hair vs. hair match against Chris Adams and Gino Hernandez in Dallas' Cotton Bowl; Ric Flair's June 23 match against Magnum T.A. in Atlanta's Omni; Magnificent Muraco's "King of the Ring" victory over The Iron Sheik on July 8 in Foxboro, Massachusetts; and Tully Blanchard's July 21 victory over Magnum T.A. to capture the U.S. title.

Jim Cornette raises his tennis racket in glory as he leads The Midnight Express to the ring. Notice that nobody is cheering him.

ACHIEVEMENT '85
MANAGER OF THE YEAR

A LOT OF strange things happened in the voting for 1985's Manager of the Year.

Mainly, Jim Cornette won. That's remarkable, considering that his greatest achievement all year was probably insulting more fans than ever before, while appearing on WTBS' *World Championship Wrestling.*

Sure, his team The Midnight Express held the World Class tag team title earlier in the year, but after they lost the belts to The Fantastics they moved to the World Championship area, where their most notable success was in gaining the number one contention spot to NWA World tag team champs The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

But a look at the numbers in the final voting shows that this year's award could have gone to any one of a number of men.

The 10,564 votes Cornette received was the *lowest* vote total of any Achievement '85 winner. His was the closest victory over the first runner-up—another 66 votes for Lou Albano, and it would have been a dead heat.

JIM CORNETTE
10,564 votes

Cornette's victory margin over the third runner-up was also the closest of any category (1,432 votes), and there were more "votes for others" in this category than any other.

"Personally, I think Jim Cornette is great," wrote Sheila Kendricks of New Orleans. "He's handsome, witty, quick-thinking, and manages the hunkiest tag team in wrestling."

Meanwhile, Cornette will no doubt enjoy his victory as 1985's Manager of the Year, however slim the margin.

PAST WINNERS

1984: Paul Ellering
1983: James J. Dillon
1982: James J. Dillon
1981: Capt. Lou Albano
1980: Sir Oliver Humperdink
1979: Arnold Skaaland
1978: Arnold Skaaland
1977: The Grand Wizard
1976: Bobby Heenan
1975: George "Crybaby" Cannon
1974: Capt. Lou Albano
1973: The Grand Wizard
1972: Bobby Heenan

RUNNERS-UP

LOU ALBANO
10,498 votes

First runner-up: Lou Albano had a good year in 1985, and no doubt many fans feel he deserves this award more than Cornette. In the WWF's Manager of the Year voting, Albano was a top finisher, only to have Heenan edge him when all the hated managers pooled their votes for him. Hillbilly Jim gave Albano *his* votes and pushed him over the top to win the WWF's award.

PAUL ELLERING
9,956 votes

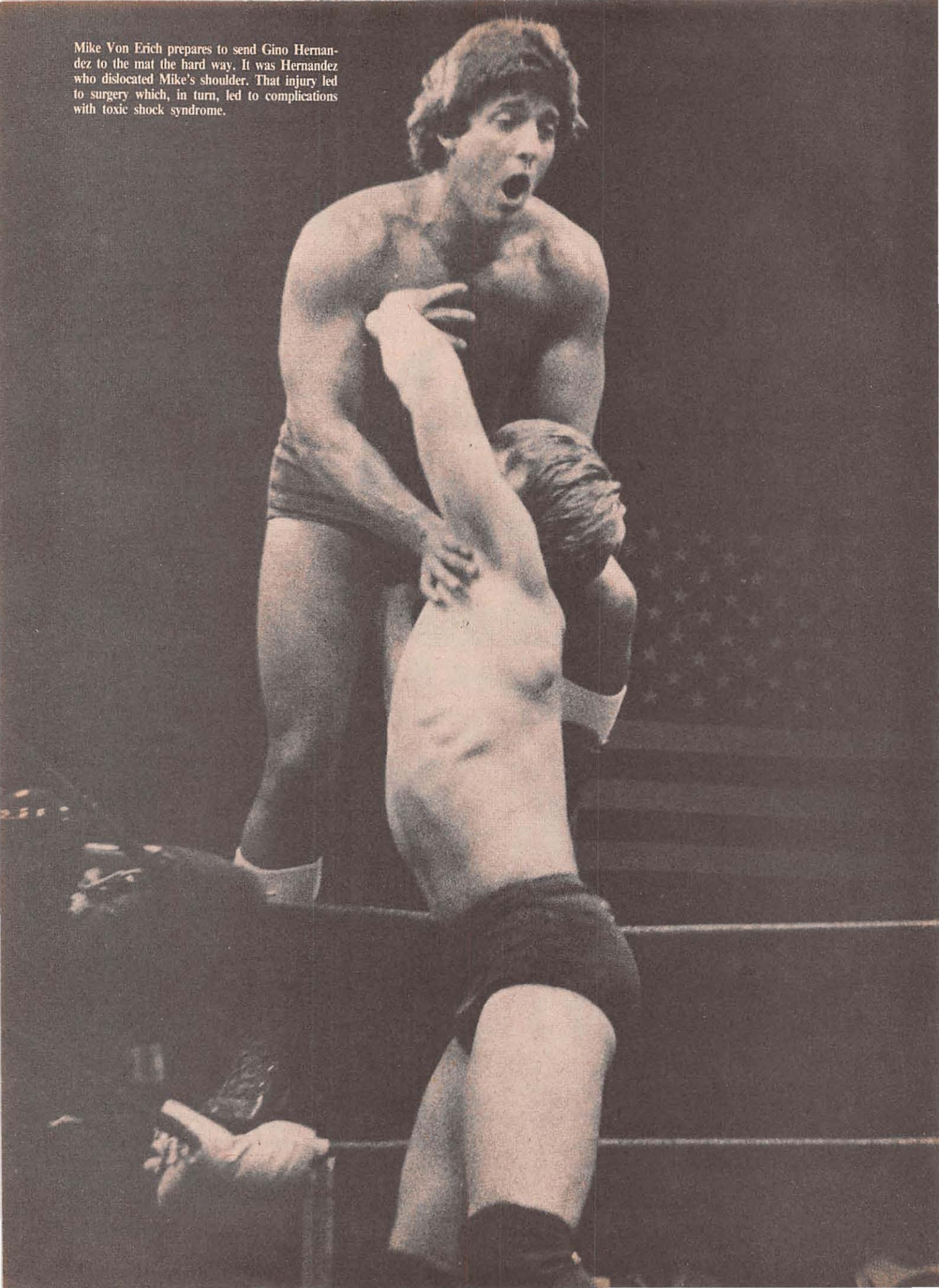
Second runner-up: Clearly, many fans are still enthralled by The Road Warriors, yet are becoming disenchanted with their manager, Paul Ellering. 1984's Manager of the Year received nearly 5,000 votes less than he did last year.

BOBBY HEENAN
9,132 votes

Third runner-up: Although one of the most hated managers anywhere in wrestling, Bobby Heenan has nevertheless risen to the top of the crowded managerial derby in the WWF to receive a great deal of admiration and respect from the fans. His recent trade with Jimmy Hart, in which he acquired King Kong Bundy for Adrian Adonis, The Missing Link, and a considerable amount of cash, may prove to be a major turning point for him in 1986.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (17,439)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Jimmy Hart, Percy Pringle, Gary Hart, Paul Jones, and Gen. Skandor Akbar.



Mike Von Erich prepares to send Gino Hernandez to the mat the hard way. It was Hernandez who dislocated Mike's shoulder. That injury led to surgery which, in turn, led to complications with toxic shock syndrome.

ACHIEVEMENT '85

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

FOR THE MOST part, the past awards for Inspirational Wrestler of the Year have been based on an individual's activities inside the ring. The 1984 award to Sgt. Slaughter is a perfect example: Slaughter stood tall for America in dozens upon dozens of matches against hated foreigners who decried the American way of life.

This year the award goes to an individual who fought and won a fight that is far tougher than any feud against any wrestler could possibly be.

Mike Von Erich came about as close to death as any individual can. Following an operation to correct a shoulder injury, Mike developed toxic shock syndrome. He had a 107 fever, lost partial functioning of his lungs and kidneys, and suffered from an inflamed pancreas. His doctors thought he would die.

Mike's physical training and will to live kept him alive, though, and less than a month later his condition improved drastically and he returned to his home in Denton, Texas, to complete his recovery.

MIKE VON ERICH

13,972 votes

"Mike Von Erich's brush with death has got to be *the* wrestling story of 1985," wrote Susan Stevenson of Dallas. "Here's a young man who was literally on the brink of death. His doctors said he didn't have a chance. And he battles back to health and, before you know it, even begins talking about a comeback to the ring early next year. And I think I've had troubles in *my* life? Now *that's* what I call an inspiration."

PAST WINNERS

1984: Sgt. Slaughter
1983: Hulk Hogan
1982: Roddy Piper
1981: Bob Backlund
1980: Junkyard Dog
1979: Chief Jay Strongbow
1978: Blackjack Mulligan
1977: Bob Backlund
1976: Bruno Sammartino
1975: Mike McCord
1974: Dick Murdoch
1973: Johnny Valentine
1972: Lord Al Hays

RUNNERS-UP

PAUL ORNDORFF

12,953 votes

First runner-up: As the result of crossed signals with Roddy Piper during the WrestleMania main event, Paul Orndorff became the victim of a pinfall by Hulk Hogan. But that match led to a falling out between Piper and Orndorff that saw "Mr. Wonderful" renounce his rulebreaking ways and embrace Hogan as a friend. Enough fans were impressed by Orndorff's turnaround to provide him with a decisive first runner-up spot in this category.

HACKSAW DUGGAN

11,191 votes

Second runner-up: "Walking tall for America" is what Hacksaw Duggan does best, and the Mid-South fans did not forget about that when it came time for the Achievement '85 vote. Duggan's fans assembled *en masse* in respect and admiration of his campaigns against Ted DiBiase, Kamala, The Barbarian, and Gen. Skandor Akbar.

KEVIN VON ERICH

9,213 votes

Third runner-up: The face most often seen by Kevin Von Erich in 1985 had to be that of Chris Adams. The Adams-Von Erich feud lasted the entire year, but Kevin refused to back down in his defense of what he feels is right and proper in professional wrestling. Over 9,000 fans clearly agree with Kevin's ideals and see him as their particular inspiration this year.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (11,843)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Sgt. Slaughter, Dusty Rhodes, Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, and Kerry Von Erich.

ACHIEVEMENT '85

EDITORS' AWARD

DAN SHOCKET

PAST WINNERS

1984:	David Von Erich	1982:	Lou Thesz
1983:	The Grand Wizard	1981:	Bruno Sammartino

EACH YEAR, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* honors someone in our sport with the "Editors' Award." This year we honor one of our own, columnist Dan Shocket.

Dan Shocket died on May 4 at the age of 35. Dan was one of the creative minds behind the founding of *PWI* six years ago. Before that, he had been instrumental in guiding the development of our entire family of wrestling magazines—chiefly *The Wrestler* and *Inside Wrestling*. He was, simply, one of the most talented writers working on any magazine anywhere. He worked for us for 10 years, virtually his entire professional life.

What Dan Shocket brought to our magazines was the belief that wrestling fans were smart enough to tell the difference between poorly written "packaged" products and a magazine that really cared about quality. Dan's legacy lives on every month through the work of *PWI's* staff of talented professionals who, like Dan, will settle for nothing short of excellence. Dan knew that working hard to put out a quality magazine does more than give its creators a good feeling—it also guarantees success. He hated the thought of anyone fooling the fans, be it magazine publishers, wrestling promoters, or the wrestlers themselves. And the only time he disliked the fans was when he felt they were allowing themselves to be fooled. It was this sort of unbending idealism that made his "Off The Top Rope" column so controversial and so entertaining.

Dan always enjoyed having the reputation of being an "underground" writer. Even though he had the talent to work for any mainstream publication, he enjoyed the freedom of creativity that a smaller, more specialized magazine allows.

Perhaps it is ironic that in the last year of Dan's life, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* became one of the 10 largest-selling newsstand sports publications in North America. Back in 1974, when Dan Shocket first went to work for this company, no one could foresee the incredible growth of wrestling and wrestling magazines. Luckily for us, we had someone like Dan, who prepared us for success in the best way: with a commitment to excellence whether our readership is 500 or 500,000.

Dan Shocket was a pioneer in bringing respectability to the job of wrestling journalist. He made all who followed him proud to be a part of this profession. He did it with his work, which shone with wit, intelligence, and honesty. And he did it with the way he lived and died, which was truly a courageous exhibition of human bravery. For this reason, Dan Shocket is honored posthumously with the 1985 Editors' Award.

Honoring Dan Shocket this way is not meant to be self-serving. In fact, it was a very difficult choice, because knowing Dan's anti-establishment views, we realize he would be less honored by this award than amused. And it was difficult, too, on a more personal level. By honoring him, we remember again what all of us here have lost with his death. It only makes the void that much deeper. □

ACHIEVEMENT '85

YOUR UNOFFICIAL OFFICIAL AWARDS FOR 1985

Back in the January 1986 edition of ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated****, when we asked you to cast your votes for the "Achievement '85" awards, we also asked you to come up with your own award and present it to an appropriate recipient. We dubbed these the "Unofficial Official Awards For 1985," and we're happy to say that your response was excellent. In fact, many fans included not just one, but as many as a dozen or more "Unofficial Official" awards. We only wish we had the space to include them all. Serious, silly, critical, and crazy, these 100 awards may not always be deserving, though many of them are—and it's up to you to determine which ones those might be!*

Act-Like-You-Know-Less-Than-You-Really-Do Award: Vince McMahon
—Chris Berg, Marine, MN

Advocates Of The Dunkin' Donuts Workout: Kamala, Abdullah the Butcher, One Man Gang
—Wesley Csop, Tucson, AZ

Announcer Most Likely To Hurt Himself Doing Promos: Tony Schiavone
—Karyl Mason, Springfield, MO

Best Aerial Attack: Kevin Von Erich
—Julie Perry, Luling, TX

Best Commentator (Not Announcer): Bill Apter on *PWI* Scouting Report with Ric Flair, mainly due to the highly professional way Apter conducted himself when Flair stormed off the show during the Dusty Rhodes affair
—Suzanne diGeorge, Metairie, LA

Best Discovery Of A Close Relative: Hillbilly Jim discovers he has an Uncle Elmer
—Shannon Mataka, Pottsville, PA

Best Dressed Wrestler: Ric Flair
—Shawn London, Tangier, VA

Best Looking Belt: Ric Flair's NWA World championship belt
—Bob Miller, Normal, IL

Best Looking Valet: Randy Savage's Miss Elizabeth
—Kool Jay, Hartford, CT

Best Moonwalk By A Southern Boy: Michael Hayes
—Eddie Brower, Richmond Hill, NY

Best Nickname: Tully "Superbrat" Blanchard
—Brad Ford, Colton, NY

Best Robe: Ric Flair
—Tina Reich, Amherst, NY

Best Tan: Terry Taylor
—Lory Pack, Victoria-City, TX

Best Wrestling Organization: Mid-South (you ain't seen action 'til you've seen Mid-South action!)
—Billy Brand, College Station, TX

Born In B.C. Award: Harley Race
—Val & Colleen Warner, Barnesboro, PA

Cauliflower Ear Award (Honorary): ABC newsman John Stossel
—Steve Mendelson, Buffalo, NY

Dan Shocket Award For Jounalism Excellence: Eddie Ellner
—Randy Davidson, Memphis, TN

Enough Is Enough Award: Kevin Von Erich vs. Chris Adams
—Francis Ranu, Clifton, NJ

Fluke Of The Year: Rick Martel holding on to the AWA World championship all year
—Ron Volpe Jr., Baden, PA

From Bad To Worse: Bob Roop joins forces with Kevin Sullivan
—Michael Ramsey, Staunton, VA

Funniest Announcer: Jesse Ventura
—Scott Bond, Raleugh, NC

Furniture Disease Award: Dusty Rhodes (furniture disease means his chest has dropped to his drawers)
—Gary Spencer, Gaffney, SC

Future Tag Team of The Year: The British Bulldogs
—Craig Nelson, Pascagoula, MS

Get Back to Wrestling Basics Award: Rick Steamboat
—Tim Miller, Bastrop, TX

"Give Me A Break, Ref" Award: Gorilla Monsoon, for saying it 25 times every match
—Scott Briggs, Portsmouth, OH

Hairiest Wrestler: Dutch Mantel
—S. Belitz, McCloud, OK

I Lernt English Very Goot Awarde: Nikita Koloff
—Mike Dougherty, Columbia, MD

"I Love To Do Everything" Award: Hulk Hogan
—Billy Ellis, Norman Park, GA

I'm In The Wrong Ring: Muhammad Ali & Joe Frazier
—Arthur Ford Jr., New York

I.Q. Match I'd Like To See: George Steele vs. The Missing Link
—Ed Sprecher, Harrisburg, PA

ACHIEVEMENT '85

"I Think That Guy's Been Prepared For The Morgue" Award: Bill Apter
—Dean Jenkinson, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Imitation Of The Year: Ric Flair (original), Buddy Landell (copy)
—Brady Pfulb, Winslow, AZ

Insult Our Intelligence Award: The TNT program where George Steele received shock treatment
—Cindy Flagg, Argos, IN

Jerk Of The Year: Bobby Heenan
—Bill Darcy, Port Murray, NJ

Joan Collins Superbitch Award: Baby Doll
—Charles L. Brooks, Lamar, MO

Karate Kid: Rick Steamboat
—Barbara Bascaglia, Philadelphia

Lady Wrestler Of The Year: Wendi Richter
—Claudia Reiff, Miami

Laughing Hyena Award: Jimmy Hart
—Margaret Mach, Montgomery, MN

Lie Of The Year: "Pro Wrestling U.S.A's" claim to bring you "the top stars of *both* the AWA and the NWA"
—Drew Greco, Verona, NJ

Loser Has To Grow Some Hair Match: Superstar Graham vs. Bob Backlund
—Jimmy DiMarcellis, Webster Groves, MO

Maneuver Of The Year: The Road Warriors' top rope powerslam
—Marc Lowe, Fremont, OH

Match I'd Like To See: The Road Warriors vs. The British Bulldogs
—Joe Ferrari, New Haven, MI

Misfits Of Wrestling: One Man Gang, Killer Tim Brooks, & Maniac Mark Lewin
—Terri L. Carter, Tucson, AZ

Mismatch Of The Year: Uncle Elmer's six-second win over Jerry Valiant
—Mark Malboeut & Dean Lawrence New Ipswich, NH

Most Acrobatic (The Edouard Carpentier Award): The British Bulldogs
—Larry Carli, Sacramento, CA

Most Affected By Foreign Objects: Tie: Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo, Rick Martel
—Patrick Dasey, Boston

Most Awesome Styling: Vince McMahon's shoulder padding and the vests with collars combined with non-matching trousers
—Jim Gibson, Commack, NY

Most Conceited Wrestler: "Gorgeous" Jim Garvin
—Manny Lago, Newark, NJ

Most Disgusting Habit: The Samoans picking their noses during interviews
—Phil Russell, Treasure Island, FL

Most Hated Fan Favorite: Jerry Lawler
—Steven Scholten, Northville, NY

Most Impressive Comeback Of The Year: Hacksaw Jim Duggan, after having his face burned by Skandor Akbar
—Jeanett Cooley, Oklahoma City

Most Improved Generic Wrestler Of The Year: Steve Lombardi
—Tim Ansberry, Marquis, OH

Most Improved Tag Team: Ole & Arn Anderson
—John Hitchcock, Greensboro, NC

Most Likely To Fail Without His Valet: Tully Blanchard
—Tony Czech, Little Falls, MN

Most Saliva Around The Mouth And Spewed During An Interview: Ric Flair
—Dennis Bernier, Tulsa, OK

Most Sickeningly Unprofessional Announcer Of The Year And *All* The Years: David Crockett
—William Gil, Nutley, NJ

Motor Mouth Of The Year: Roddy Piper
—Scott Gordon, Oakdale, NY

Nicest Buns: Paul Orndorff
—Debbie Nasby, North Bend, OR

No Way To Treat A Lady Award: Randy Savage, for his treatment of his valet Miss Elizabeth
—Gerald Taylor, Brookfield, MO

Now You See Him, Now You Don't: Billy Jack Haynes
—Angela Choyce, Mendenhall, MS

Put-Down Artist: Roddy Piper
—Robb Toops, Jackson, MI

Referee Of The Year: David Manning
—David Bartucca, Boston

Richard M. Nixon Award For Administrative Integrity: Vince McMahon
—Jeff Levin, Galveston, TX

Sexiest Wrestlers: The Fabulous Ones
—Susan Cotton, Owensboro, KY

Shakespeare Wanna-Be Award: Leapin' Lanny Poffo
—Maureen Klein, Arlington Heights, IL

Snot Of The Year: Buddy Landell
—John Lord, Reynoldsburg, OH

ACHIEVEMENT '85

Sophomore Jinx Award: Mike Von Erich
—Rick Hougland, Chillicothe, OH

Stan "Plowboy" Frazier Lookalike Award: Uncle Elmer
—Nick Krieger, Fairlawn, NJ

Strongest Wrestler: Road Warrior Animal
—James Scoppa, Wayland, MA

Stupidest Move By A Television Station: WTBS' cancellation of Mid-South wrestling
—Dorothy Van Dusen, Syracuse, NY

Tag Team Of The 20th Century: The Road Warriors
—David Gilpin, Holden, WV

Take Off Your Shirt To Get Psyched: Hulk Hogan
—Chris Corder, Elizabethtown, KY

Tallest Tale: John Studd's insistence that he has never been slammed
—Richard Vogel Jr., Brockton, MA

The Name Just Don't Fit Anymore: "Gentleman" Chris Adams
—Liz Harris, Lancaster, TX

They're Champs, They're Not, They're Champs, They're Not . . .: Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo
—Joseph A. Quintos, Los Angeles

Time To Hang It Up Award: Tony Garea
—Andy Marshall, Delaware, OH

Time To Lay Off The WWF Award: Pro Wrestling Illustrated
—Bruce Taub, Sharon, PA

Time To Think More About Wrestling And Less About Hype Award: WWF
—David Quinn, Johnstown, PA

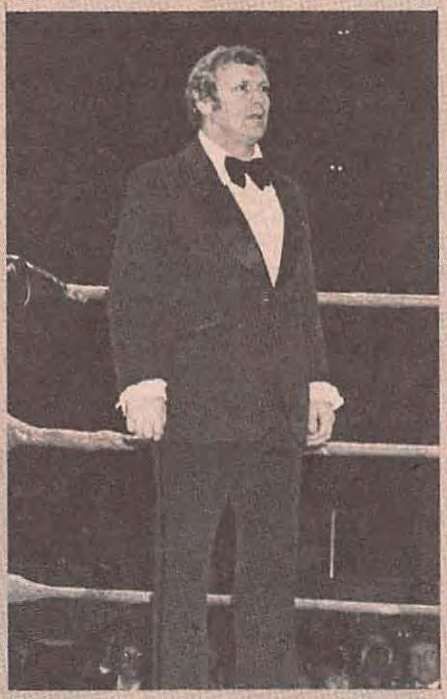
Timekeeper Of The Year: Liberace
—Robert Kurek, Niles, IL

Tony Perkins A Boy's Best Friend Is His Mother Award: Jim Cornette
—Cathy Housman, Harrisburg, PA

Underrated Wrestler Of The Year: Manny Fernandez
—Mike Welbom, Pickens, SC

Upset Of The Year: Jim Garvin and Steve Regal defeating The Road Warriors for the AWA World tag team belts
—Forrest Briggs, Anderson, SC

Using Your Head As A Roadmap To Success: Tie: Dusty Rhodes, Abdullah the Butcher
—Mike McConnell Jr., Carlinville, IL



Where Did He Find That Tux?: Lord Alfred Hays
—Don Kimmence, Gloucester, NY

Wimp's Dream Team: Adrian Street & Jim Garvin, managed by Jim Cornette
—Cathi Parker, Pawls Valley, OK

World's Worst Stable: J.J. Dillon
—John Mohlman, Pittsburgh

Worst Cue Card Reader: Lord Alfred Hays. He is hilarious to watch; the man has accumulated a repertoire of facial tics and blinks that demand nothing less than a complete musical score by Stravinsky
—Frank Horr, Ft. Hood, TX

Worst-Dressed Commentator Of The Year: Boyd Pierce
—Kim Whitehead, Picayune, MS

Worst Excuses For Rambo: Cpl. Kirschner & Greg Gagne
—Jim Carey, Boston

Worst Finishing Maneuver: Hulk Hogan's legdrop
—Dave Breyer, Ellwood City, PA

Worst Manager: Lou Albano
—M.B. Walthour Jr., Greensborg, PA

Worst Promoter: Tie: Vince McMahon, Verne Gagne
—Jay Kaufman, Longmeadow, MA

Worst Referee Of The Year: Pat Patterson
—Lee Vaughn, Beaver, PA

Worst Trend: Rock 'n' Wrestling Connection
—David Kelly, Windsor, CT

Worst Wrestling Journalist: Liz Hunter
—Dwight Hansen, Atlanta

Wrestler I'd Most Like To See In The Centerfold Of *Playgirl*: Kerry Von Erich
—Kimberly Brown, Saugus, MA

Wrestler Least Likely To Win A Title But Does Anyway: Jack Hart (Florida heavyweight championship)
—Chris Bartley, Newton, MA

Wrestler Most Likely To Become A Victim Of Capital Punishment: David Shultz
—Scott Palermo, Pittsburgh

Wrestling's Reason For Birth Control: Adrian Street
—Wendy Sievert, Duluth, MN

You've Got To Be Joking Award: Hulk Hogan's title being given world title status by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*
—Dayna Smith, Little Rock, AK □

PREDICTIONS '86

Hulk Hogan will keep his WWF title . . . **Barry Windham** will go to the NWA and win the World title . . . **George Steele** will retire (hopefully) . . . **Kerry Von Erich** will realize there are 49 other states outside Texas, but will still stay in Texas.
—Robert Allison, Maplecrest, NY

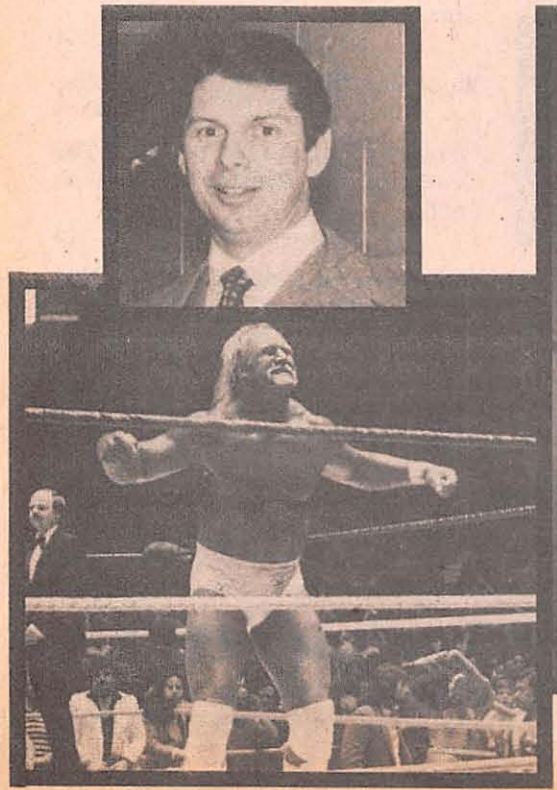
King Kong Bundy and **Big John Studd** will retire a fan favorite . . . **Cowboy Bob Orton** will leave **Roddy Piper** and go to **Paul Orndorff**, becoming a fan favorite . . . **Fred Blassie** will retire due to health reasons . . . **Bobby Heenan** will raise the bounty on the head of **Paul Orndorff** to $100,000 or more . . . **Chris Adams** and **Gino Hernandez** will split up . . . **Big John Studd's** hair will be cut by **Andre the Giant.**
—Terry Gill, Mt. Vernon, OH

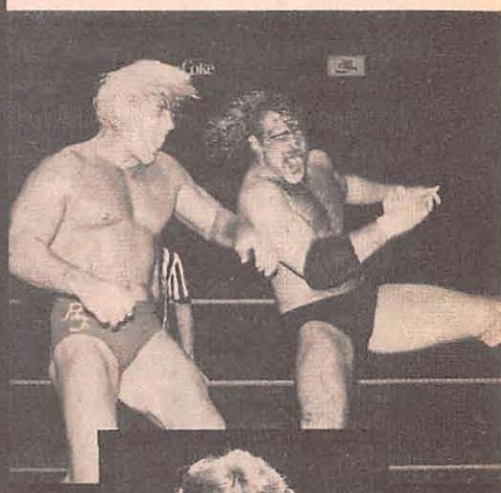
Jim Cornette will be in a tennis match against **John McEnroe**; he'll win, because his mother will buy the match . . . **Billy Jack Haynes** will leave **Wahoo McDaniel** as soon as they lose the U.S. tag team belts because he lost one match.
—Lory Pack, Victoria City, TX

Starrcade '86 will attract the largest crowd ever . . . **Killer Brooks** will turn on **Gary Hart** . . . **Roddy Piper** will get into a violent feud with **Tito Santana** . . . **Sam Houston** will give **Ric Flair** many tough matches for the NWA World title . . . **Kendell Windham** will establish himself as a dominant force in wrestling.
—Forrest Briggs, Anderson, SC

Nikolai Volkoff will have a big hit with his remake of **The Beatles'** "Back In The USSR" . . . **Nikita Koloff** will take the NWA World belt from **Ric Flair** . . . **Magnificent Muraco** and **Rick Steamboat** will have their final showdown on the beaches of Hawaii; **Steve McGarret** will book them for impersonating wrestlers . . . **Stan Hansen** will break **Rick Martel's** neck with the lariat, but he won't win the AWA title . . . **Superstar Billy Graham** will return to the WWF to challenge **Hulk Hogan** for the WWF title . . . **Big John Studd** and **King Kong Bundy** will split **Bobby Heenan's** $50,000 bounty. They'll put **Paul Orndorff** out of wrestling, but only for a short while.
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie will sign the AWA **Barbarian** and World Championship Wrestling **Konga The Barbarian** and form **The Barbarians**, who will take the AWA tag team title . . . New additions to the WWF will include **The Fabulous Ones** (who will win the tag team belts), **Austin Idol, Bruiser Brody**, and **Dory Funk Jr.** . . . A representative of the Iranian government will present **The Iron Sheik** with the **Ayatollah's** Superior Service award on the TNT show. The representative will decide to defect while he's on the show so he can marry his American sweetheart. A wedding will follow the month after on *Saturday Night's Main Event*, but will be interrupted by Iranian terrorists who are accompanied by the Ayatollah's nephew, **Chuckie**, and who will hold the entire crowd in the Nassau Coliseum captive. **Hulk Hogan, Andre the Giant, Mr. T, Chuck Norris**, and **Sylvester Stallone** will charge the 50 terrorists and beat them to a bloody pulp. **Cyndi Lauper** will kick the Ayatollah's nephew Chuckie in the shins and force him to be in her next video to portray her mother's boyfriend.
—Mark Bell, Tiltonville, OH





My "In Focus" column in the January 1986 edition of ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated*** *asked readers to gaze into the future and send in their predictions for the year ahead. I received an excellent response, though many fans did offer a lot of repeat predictions (the most common prediction: The Road Warriors will go to the WWF and remain wrestling's most awesome tag team). Herewith, a sampling of some of your better—and more interesting—predictions, culled from the letters of an even dozen prognosticators. Keep this page, and when December 31, 1986, rolls around, we'll all see which one of you looked ahead to the future with the clearest foresight.*
—Craig Peters

Paul Ellering will meet **Jim Garvin's** valet in a series of scaffold matches to decide once and for all who is the most **Precious** . . . **Lou Albano** will lose nearly 100 pounds, but will eventually die from too much unborn virgin goat's milk . . . **Jim Crockett** Promotions will fold due to overexposure . . . **Verne Gagne's** promotion will fold due to overexposure—of **Greg Gagne** . . . **Kevin Von Erich** will wisely leave Texas to concentrate on winning the NWA World title. **Kerry Von Erich** will also leave, going to the AWA where he will easily beat **Rick Martel.**
—John Mohlman, Pittsburgh

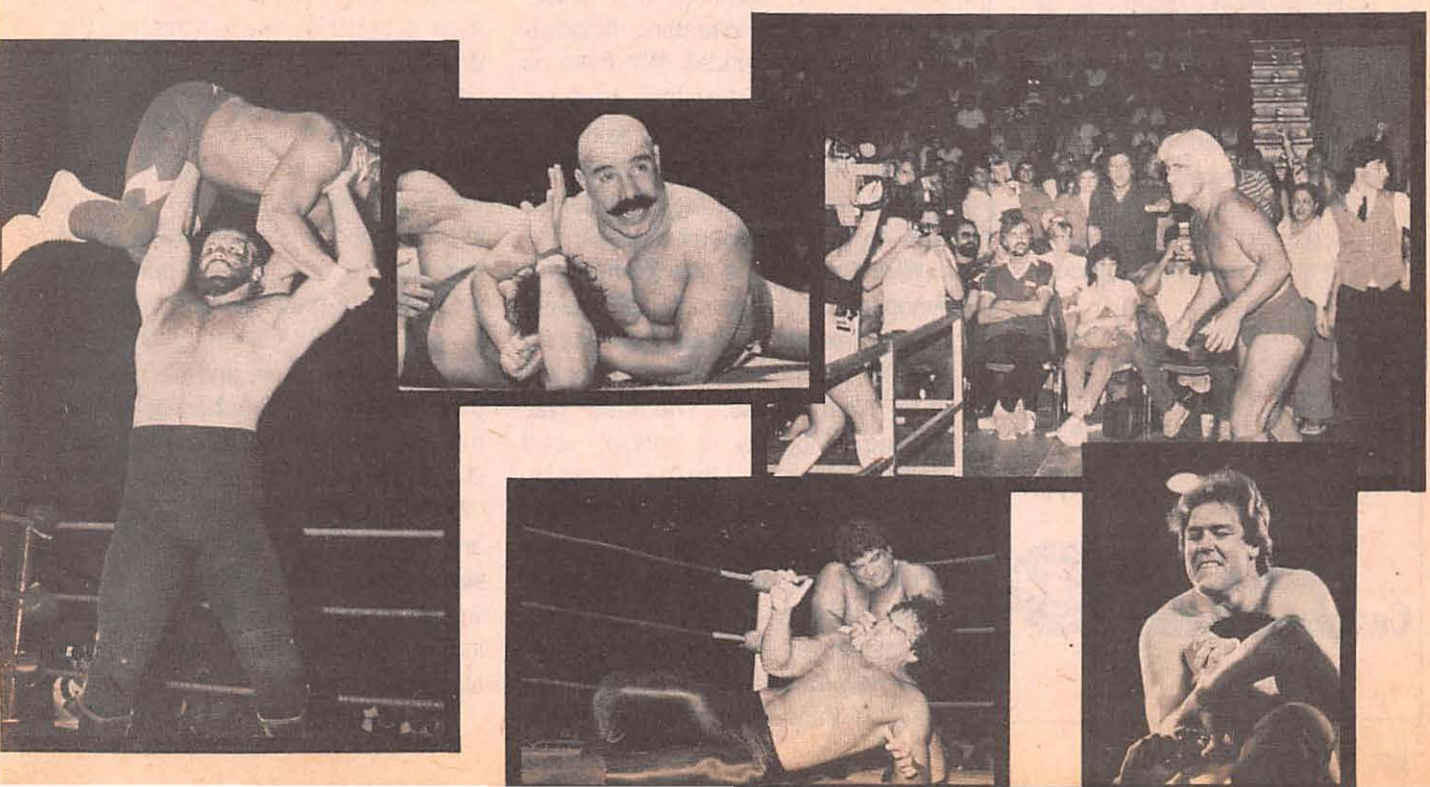
Hulk Hogan will wrestle a scientific wrestler in the WWF and beat him to prove he is a champion . . . **Rambo** will invade the WWF and blow up **Vince McMahon** . . . **Magnificent Muraco** will win the Intercontinental title from **Tito Santana** due to a salt-throwing **Mr. Fuji** . . . The AWA will become exciting again . . . **Dusty Rhodes** will win **Ric Flair's** NWA World title on December 24 . . . **Andre the Giant** will lose 100 pounds and wrestle **Hulk Hogan** for the WWF belt, but lose to a small package.
—William Gil, Nutley, NJ

Hulk Hogan will learn to wrestle . . . **Eddie Ellner** will quit acting like **Dan Shocket** . . . **Rick Martel** will stop being so wishy-washy . . . **Baby Doll** will leave **Tully Blanchard** to marry **Dusty Rhodes** . . **Ric Flair** will remain NWA World champion throughout the year, but will meet some tough challenges from **Jim Duggan** . . . **Tito Santana** will again lose the Intercontinental title, to **Don Muraco**, making Muraco a three-time champion . . . **Mark Youngblood** will retire from wrestling in grievance over his departed brother . . . **Chris Adams** will defeat **Rick Martel** for the AWA World title . . . **Jim Brunzell** will return to the AWA and reform the Hi-Flyers with **Greg Gagne** . . . **The Von Erichs** will each scoop up a major singles title.
—Steve Ryan, Brockport, NY

Ric Flair will lose his title to **Magnum T.A.** or one of the **Von Erichs** . . . **Roddy Piper** will leave the WWF . . . **Baby Doll** will turn on **Tully Blanchard** . . . **Krusher Khrushchev** will feud with the **Koloffs** . . . The WWF will start a day care center for kids where they will run wrestling cartoons, kids can play with wrestling dolls, and they'll wear the new **Hulk Hogan** jogging pants.
—Rob Smith, Whitestone, NY

Jimmy Snuka will try to get revenge on **The Tonga Kid** for leaving him in his wars against **Roddy Piper** and **Bob Orton** . . . **Sam Houston** will beat **Ric Flair** for the NWA World title . . . **Terry Funk** will cripple **Paul Orndorff** . . . **David Shultz** will join **The Freebirds.**
—Danny Johns, Melbourne, FL

Eddie Ellner will quit "Off The Top Rope" because of too many abusive letters . . . After Ellner quits, **Jim Schuermann** will see the light, become a pro-rulebreaker journalist, and take over "Off The Top Rope" . . . **"Vince McMayhem"** will try to recruit "Nature Boy" **Ric Flair** for $10 million. Flair will accept, but send **Buddy Landell** to the WWF where Vince and the announcers won't be able to tell the difference . . . **Terry Funk** will beat **Hulk Hogan** to become the second man in history to have held both the WWF and NWA World titles . . . **Big Mama** (the valet of **Jimmy Valiant**) will roll over in her sleep and suffocate . . . A major world titleholder will be crippled permanently . . . All of the March 1986 issues of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will be lost in the mail and the T.V. Sports building will be destroyed by angry subscribers.
—Steven Scholten, Northville, NY □



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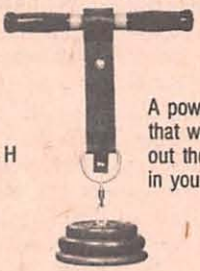
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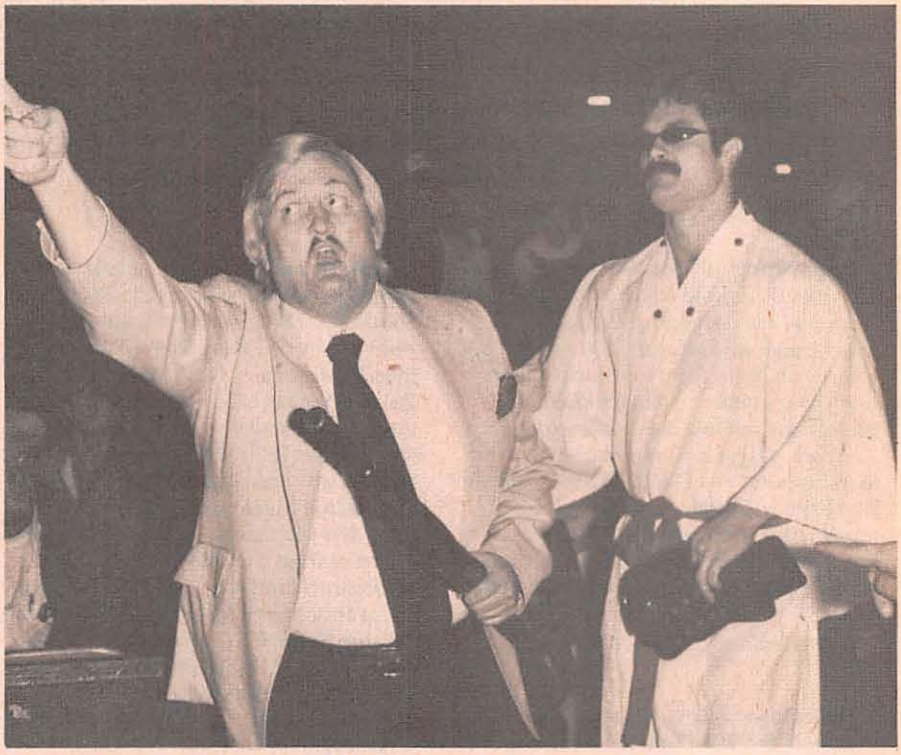
RINGSIDE

(Continued from page 8)



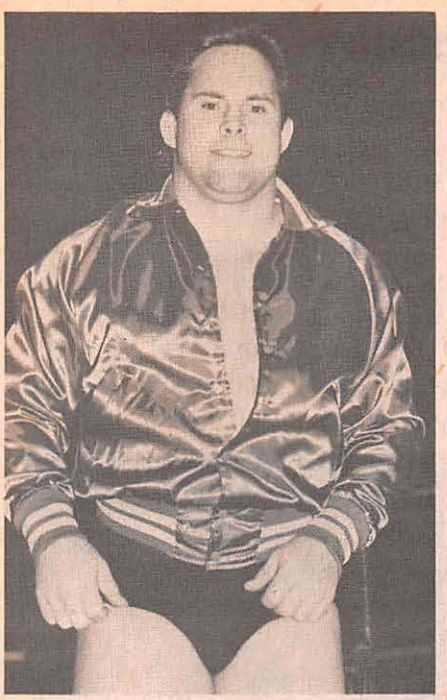
Percy Pringle, guiding Rick Rude to the ring, warns Rude's opponent that he is in for the toughest match of his life. Rude recently captured the World Class American title from Iceman Parsons.

days later Sullivan tried to throw fire at **Mike Graham**, who had run into the ring to save Mulligan from a double-team attack by Sullivan and Singh. Kendell ran in to save Mike, and Sullivan threw fire in Kendell's face. "The spirit of Abughdadien is smiling in the darkness of Hades," Sullivan told **Pro Wrestling Illustrated**, "because Kendell Windham is disfigured for life. **For life!** All is serene now in the wrestling world." If Sullivan thinks things are serene in Florida, wait until he begins to tangle with an outraged Barry Windham!

Rick Rude is the new World Class American heavyweight champion, having defeated **Iceman Parsons** for the title in a best-of-three-falls contest in Ft. Worth, Texas. "The match was a thing of beauty to behold," said Rude's manager, **Percy Pringle**. "Rick is wrestling better than ever, and he's showing these ugly Texans a thing or two about what wrestling is **really** about. And with his new finishing maneuver, Rick is unbeatable!" That new maneuver is a version of the DDT that Rick appropriately calls "the Rude awakening."

Jim Garvin and **Steve Regal** are **still** basking in the glow of their AWA World tag team title victory over **The Road Warriors**. "Let me tell you something," Garvin told **PWI**, "it just goes to show you that sure, muscle and brawn is great, but brains are even better. Hey, we outsmarted the Warriors, it's that simple. It's not **my** fault that The Legion Of Doom is composed of a legion of dummies! **Hahaha!**" Garvin may not be laughing when he hears of the Legion's latest announcement: **Precious Paul Ellering** reportedly has purchased six plots at a graveyard in Minneapolis, one each for Garvin, Regal, Garvin's valet **Precious**, and each of the three **Fabulous Freebirds**; it was the interference of **Freebird Michael Hayes** that resulted in the Warriors losing their title to Garvin and Regal. Speaking of the Warriors, **Road Warrior Animal** recently won a 20-man, $100,000 battle royal in Chicago. He ousted **Stan Hansen** to claim the victory.

I'm sorry to report the death of



"Quickdraw" Rick McGraw suffered a fatal heart attack on November 1 at his home in New Haven, Connecticut.

Rick McGraw, who suffered a fatal heart attack at his home in New Haven, Connecticut, on November 1. McGraw was 30 years old. His final match was a brutalization at the hands of **Roddy Piper**, and we can only hope that the Rowdy Scot will not have the bad taste and lack of intelligence to take credit for this sad tragedy.

Before I run out of space, I just want to take this opportunity to salute three members of the **PWI** staff who often get overlooked. Our writers get bylines on their columns, but there are no bylines for the **PWI** art department. This being a special double-issue of **PWI,** with eight pages of color and several special and unusual sections, our art department was working overtime to make this the greatest issue of **PWI** ever published. So take a bow **Darlene Saks**, **Ken Morgan**, and **Charles Foster**. You did a fine, fine job.

And once again I'd like to remind you to tune in to "**Pro Wrestling Illustrated** Scouting Report" each Sunday evening at 7:05 p.m. (Eastern time) on **The Best Of World Championship Wrestling.**

That's all for now. Have a healthy, happy, and safe holiday season. And I'll see you at the matches! □

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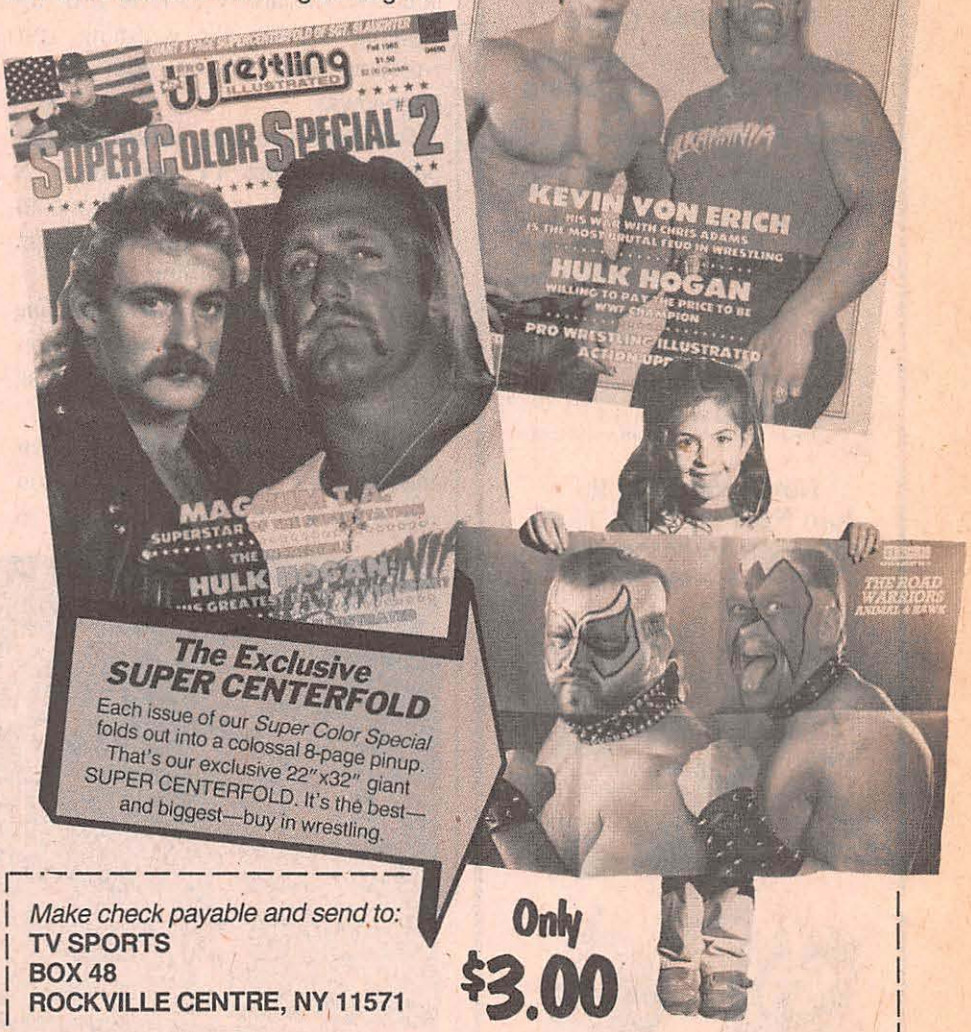

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KING'S COURT

(Continued from page 10)

months," you are saying that he has *actually been sitting on a shelf for six months.* Perhaps it is true. After all, you do work for the WWF, and I'm sure if "The McBoss" told one of his employees to sit on a shelf for six months, he'd do it.

For Jimmy Snuka: Main event at Madison Square Garden once again.

For Gene Okerlund, WWF TV announcer: The ability to hide your incredible distaste for wrestling and wrestling fans during your satiric interviews.

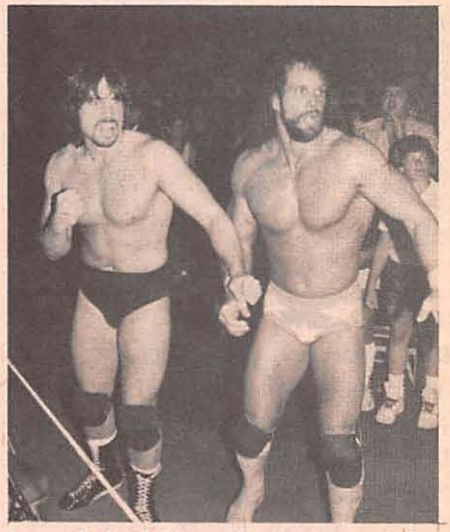
For David Crockett, *World Championship Wrestling* TV announcer: A hold button on your microphone to be used all the times you start to get too excited over nothing.

For Ken Resnick, *Pro Wrestling U.S.A.* TV announcer: A hold button on your microphone to be used all the time.

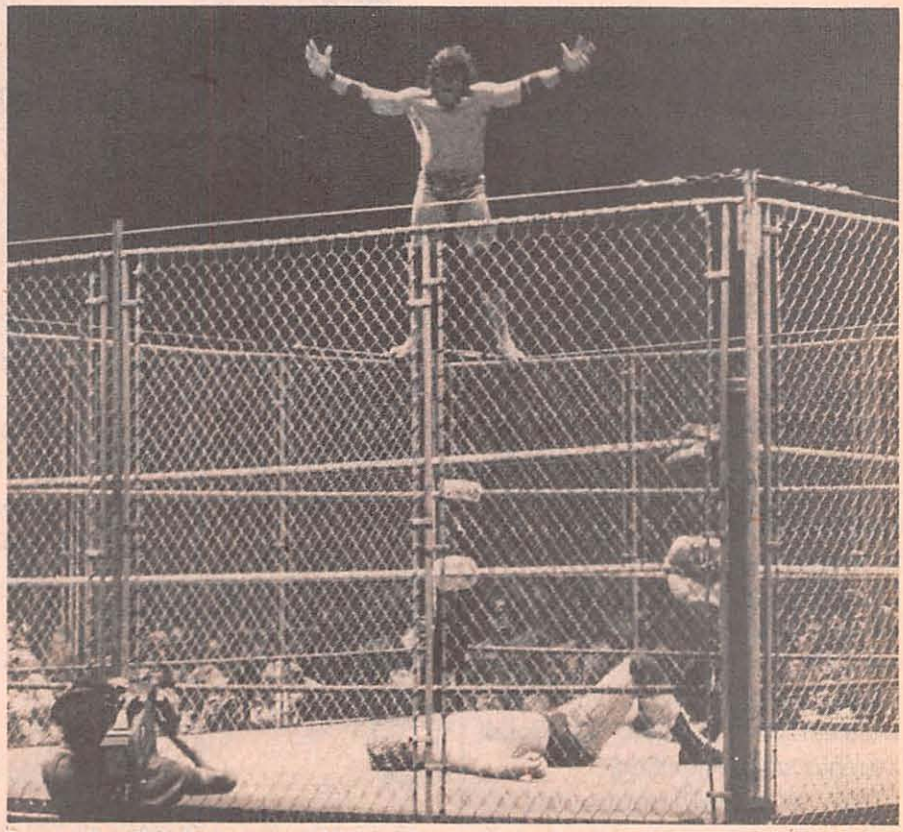
For Jesse Ventura, WWF TV color analyst: Your own seminar, so you can teach all other color analysts to be as interesting and entertaining as you are.

For Randy Savage: A new kid brother, to replace the one you lost when you moved to the WWF.

For Lanny Poffo: A new big brother, to replace the one you lost when you moved to the WWF.



Lanny Poffo (left) and Randy Savage during their pre-WWF days in the Mid-Southern area last year. Poffo and Savage are brothers.



Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka surveys Madison Square Garden from atop the steel cage. Hopefully, Snuka will return to main event status at the Garden someday soon.

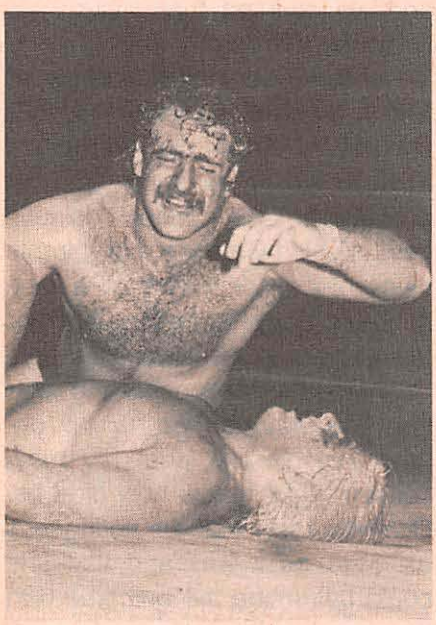
For The Fabulous Freebirds: A chance to recapture the magic that has been mysteriously missing since you left the World Class area more than two years ago.

For Mr. T: A cage match against Tony Danza, whose TV show *Who's The Boss* may have your *A-Team* caught in a submission hold.

For Bob Backlund: A winning team—and a happy new career—at Central Connecticut State University.

For Tito Santana: Recognition that you are every bit the world champion that Flair, Hogan, and Martel are.

For Magnum T.A. (a man who has 99 percent of what it takes to be wrestling's biggest star): That missing one percent.



Magnum T.A. moves in for the pinfall on NWA champion Ric Flair. Magnum has what it takes to be wrestling's biggest star—almost.

For Magnificent Muraco: A one-hour death match in which neither pinfalls nor disqualifications count, against Hulk Hogan.

For Ivan Putski: The learning and perfecting of one new wrestling maneuver, which would bring the amount in your repertoire up to an even two.

For The Road Warriors: A chance to wrestle the tag team champions of the AWA, NWA, and WWF, all in one night.

And for all of you loyal *PWI* readers: Happy holidays, and a great 1986. □

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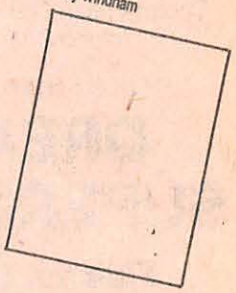

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DRESSING ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

(Continued from page 12)

task is completed, the individual ballots are tabulated by our trusted secretarial staff.

The *PWI* Achievement awards are the most important awards in wrestling. This is not bragging; it is an accepted fact by every member of the wrestling community, including wrestlers, promoters, and fans. Despite this fact, we have never seen any need to employ an outside agency to protect integrity of our results. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences uses the services of the accounting firm of Price Waterhouse and Company to tabulate the votes for the Oscars, and maybe we should consider using an outside agency as well.

At the 4 p.m. deadline, we had our winner. Jim Cornette, with a last-minute surge, had overtaken Albano and had won by 66 votes. At 4:20, Assistant Editor Jim Schuermann called Jim Cornette to inform him of his victory and got the quote that appears in "What They Are Saying" on page 15. At 4:30, I got a strange call from Artie downstairs.

"I'm glad this poll is over," he said, obviously relieved that he would be returning to a normal routine the next day. "The fans were really into it this year," he added. "In fact, I got about 200 ballots Federal Expressed in separate packages from one woman in Memphis."

"What's that, Artie?" I asked incredulously. "Do you know how much that would cost?"

"Yeah," he said, "I send out Federals all the time. At $14 per delivery, it would come out to exactly $2,800."

"And you say the same name was on each one?

"Yeah, let me see, I kept one of the envelopes. Uh-huh, Evelyn Cornell."

"Evelyn Cornell. Okay, Artie, thanks a lot."

As soon as I hung up with Artie, I called up front to the secretaries and asked Dina Meekins if she knew anything about the ballots sent in by one Evelyn Cornell. "Yes," she replied, "very peculiar. We had 200 ballots from this woman and all of them selected Jim Cornette as Manager of the Year."

Dina continued: "I called Peter [King] and asked him if there was anything stated in our rules that prohibited a fan from voting more than once. He said there wasn't, so I just assumed it was okay, and we counted them. Did I do something wrong?"

I assured her that she had not. But I suspect someone on our staff might have. Jim Cornette's mother, as we all know, has an unlimited money supply. In this case, Evelyn Cornette bought this election for her son with a last-minute barrage of ballots. If that's the game she wants to play, fine. I only regret that a deserving man like Lou Albano had to be deprived of his just due. My main concern right now is how did Mrs. Cornette know that the voting was as close as it was and that she could determine the outcome with the amount of ballots she sent in?

I hate to suspect anyone in this office, but I have no choice. The votes are tabulated daily in our company computer, to which everyone here has access. If anyone wanted to call Mrs. Cornette the night before deadline and say "Send in 200, and your son will win it," he or she could have. It's a sad fact, but a fact nonetheless.

Just a couple of years ago, many of you probably remember, Jimmy Hart (with a little help from his managerial partner, one Jim Cornette) tried to do much the same thing. We caught him. This year, we were not so lucky.

Does anyone know the number of Price Waterhouse? □

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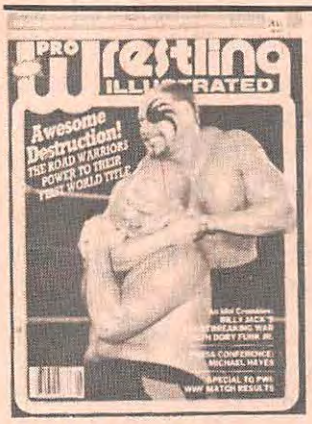


JANUARY 1985

July 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: The Sheik. Cover story: Bruno Sammartino. PLUS: Wrestling II, Race, Ladd, Albano.

August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: Koloff and Smirnoff. Cover story: Bruno vs. Zbyszko. PLUS: Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan.

June 1982/COLOR POSTER: Nick Bockwinkel. Cover story: Adonis & Ventura. PLUS: Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR POSTER: Dino Bravo. Cover story: Steamboat & Rich. PLUS: Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

September 1982/COLOR POSTER: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel, AWA Sheiks.

October 1982/COLOR POSTER: Jerry Lawler. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ken Patera. Cover story: Rick Steamboat. PLUS: Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Putski. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Garvin. PLUS: Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR POSTER: Superstar Graham. Cover story: Mil Mascaras. PLUS: Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR POSTER: Cowboy Bob Orton. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

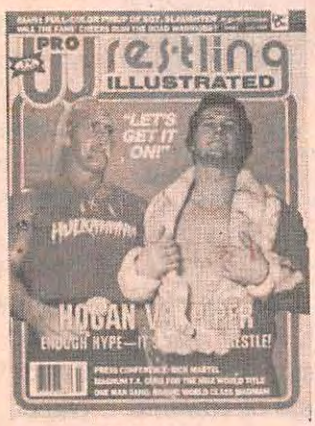
July 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Koloff. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Patera, Von Erich, Snuka, Geigel.

August 1983/COLOR POSTER: Larry Zbyszko. Cover story: Roddy Piper. PLUS: Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR POSTER: Roddy Piper. Cover story: Harley Race. PLUS: Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR POSTER: Wahoo McDaniel. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.



JULY 1985

January 1984/COLOR POSTER: Harley Race. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR POSTER: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Cover story: Greg Valentine. PLUS: Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

April 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rocky Johnson. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Hogan, Andre, Rich, Bundy.

May 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Butch Reed. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR POSTER: Dick Slater. Cover story: Ted DiBiase. PLUS: Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, One Man Gang, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR POSTER: Paul Ellering. Cover story: Jimmy Valiant. PLUS: JYD, Fabulous Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR POSTER: Stan Hansen. Cover story: Jerry Lawler. PLUS: Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

September 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hulk Hogan. Cover story: The Road Warriors. SPECIAL FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE—A Look Back At Wrestling In The *PWI* Years.

October 1984/COLOR POSTER: Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. PLUS: Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Sgt. Slaughter. PLUS: Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

December 1984/COLOR POSTER: Kerry Von Erich. Cover story: Barry Windham. PLUS: Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

January 1985/COLOR POSTER: Tito Santana. Cover story: Road Warriors. PLUS: Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR POSTER: Magnum T.A. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

March 1985/SPECIAL YEAR-END AWARDS ISSUE! FOUR PAGE COLOR SECTION: Billy Jack, Roddy Piper, Ric Flair vs. Kerry Von Erich; PLUS: 1984—The Year In Review.

April 1985/COLOR POSTER: Ronnie Garvin. Cover story: Jimmy Snuka. PLUS: Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

May 1985/COLOR POSTER: Road Warriors. SPECIAL TAG TEAM ISSUE! Cover story: Fabulous Ones & Rock 'n' Roll Express. PLUS: Windham & Rotundo, Von Erich & Billy Haynes, *PWI* Rates Top 15 teams.

June 1985/COLOR POSTER: Barry Windham. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, Magnum T.A.

July 1985/COLOR POSTER: Sgt. Slaughter. Cover story: Hogan vs. Piper. PLUS: Road Warriors, One Man Gang, Magnum T.A., Martel.

August 1985/COLOR POSTER: Rock 'n' Roll Express. Cover story: Von Erichs. PLUS: Slaughter, Hogan, NWA scouting reports.

September 1985/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Magnum T.A. PLUS: Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

OCTOBER 1985

October 1985/COLOR POSTER: Chris Adams. Cover story: Steamboat. PLUS: Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR POSTER: Randy Savage. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR POSTER: Jesse Ventura. Cover story: Great American Bash. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Duggan. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Magnum T.A., Brody, Gagne.

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- ☐ PWI/September 1982
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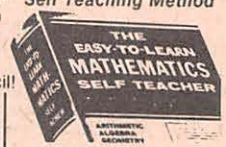

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)

Elizabeth takes care of Savage's robe prior to a match, but she should not be considered his valet. If Savage continues to treat her badly, Elizabeth may bring her services elsewhere.

vasion if they further the cause of female wrestling.

But enough of that for now. Hank Aaron took a lot of abuse, too, and it didn't stop him. Abusive mail is the refuge of cowards. We will survive.

My topic for this month is a sadly misunderstood woman who occupies an honored place in professional wrestling. "Miss Elizabeth," or Elizabeth, as I'll respectfully refer to her for the duration of this column, took five steps backward once Randy Savage announced she would be his manager. WWF fans felt cheated. No Blassie? No Heenan? Just a bimbo to manage the federation's hyperactive free agent?

The reaction to Savage's choice of Elizabeth as manager was swift and transcendentally stupid. "Aw, she's nothin' but a valet." "The Macho Man's really managing himself, he just wants a traveling secretary to book his matches." Or, "None of those guys would come across to feed Savage's ego—he needed a woman for that." Or, worst of all, "She's nothin' but a piece, a good slab—Savage wants her body, and she wards off the groupies!"

No, sorry. Elizabeth is one of the best managers in the sport. In fact, she has the potential to be the next Grand Wizard of Wrestling. But her pants aren't baggy enough for her to be fairly appreciated.

I chose the late great Grand Wizard as a proper analogy because Elizabeth's managerial functions are quite similar. Randy Savage doesn't need a manager for tactical guidance; he's a veteran who can handle his own strategies. Like numerous athletes, however, he's as innocent as a babe in the woods about business, matchmaking, and the psychology of one-on-one warfare. That's where Elizabeth comes in.

Bruno Sammartino, who hired Arnold Skaaland to take care of business distractions in his own career, respectfully calls her "an extremely tough negotiator." In fact, she is one of the toughest, most skilled negotiators in wrestling. The majority of grapplers would kill to gain her services. In the ever-complicated world of professional wrestling, it takes a genius to guide a man from promises to the dotted line. Elizabeth knows how. Insiders are starting to refer to her as the Lee Iacocca of wrestling.

But Elizabeth can't set free sail. Problems arise. Randy Savage is, to put it nicely, a chauvinistic idiot. We've seen the way he treats his manager in the ring—bad-mouthing her in his semi-audible mongoloid mumble, shaking her chin as if he's going to pop her a stiff blow. That act goes beyond arrogance—it approaches felonious

battery, if not assault. And most fans, who are more sympathetic to Liz's pop-up brassiere than her genius, boo Savage. (Other fans don't care, because they love his aerial routines more than the manager's heaving cleavage.) They are absolutely right, but for the wrong reasons. They see Elizabeth as a dumb martyr, a victim. I know her, and her accomplishments, well enough to realize that she's her own woman.

So why does she submit to the abuse? Why does she dress like a harridan, inviting spastic wolf whistles? Why does she enter the ring at all, if nearly all of her managing is done behind the scenes, etched in boardroom minutes and long-distance receipts?

The answer, I think, is that she loves wrestling too much to stay in the dressing room. Again, like The Grand Wizard, she is a former TV color commentator who got sick of the passive role in wrestling. Her genius is a natural asset to the world's greatest sport. And as long as she's managing, she slaps on the flashiest outfits she can summon—why not? If Savage can don skinny tights and cobra-festooned robes, why can't a woman flaunt her stunning charms?

Answer: because macho jerks will think she's . . .

Trouble is, Elizabeth seems to be falling into the trap of living out her image. She may think she *is* some sort of tramp, or whatever, because of the way she's been treated—by Savage, by insiders, by the fans. But she is *not* something less than a true manager. She is, in fact, a brilliant mentor.

I can only hope she learns what Precious learned. The only male wrestlers worth managing are those who appreciate your genius. It doesn't matter whether they can be future champions; no future is worth selling your soul. And remember: A manager can fire *her* clients as easily as vice versa.□

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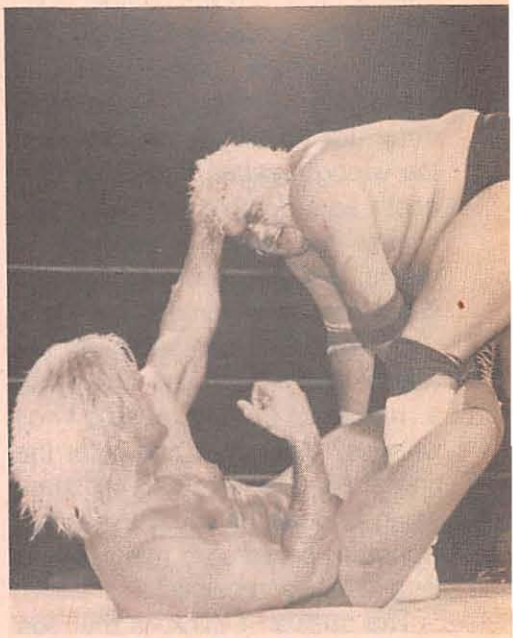
OFF THE TOP ROPE

(Continued from page 20)



Dusty Rhodes is looking good/Eating plenty, like he should/The folds of fat there in his belly/Make Ric Flair think he's punching jelly.

the ankle of a helpless man, especially when Dusty came in to help him. I think the NWA should take action against Flair.

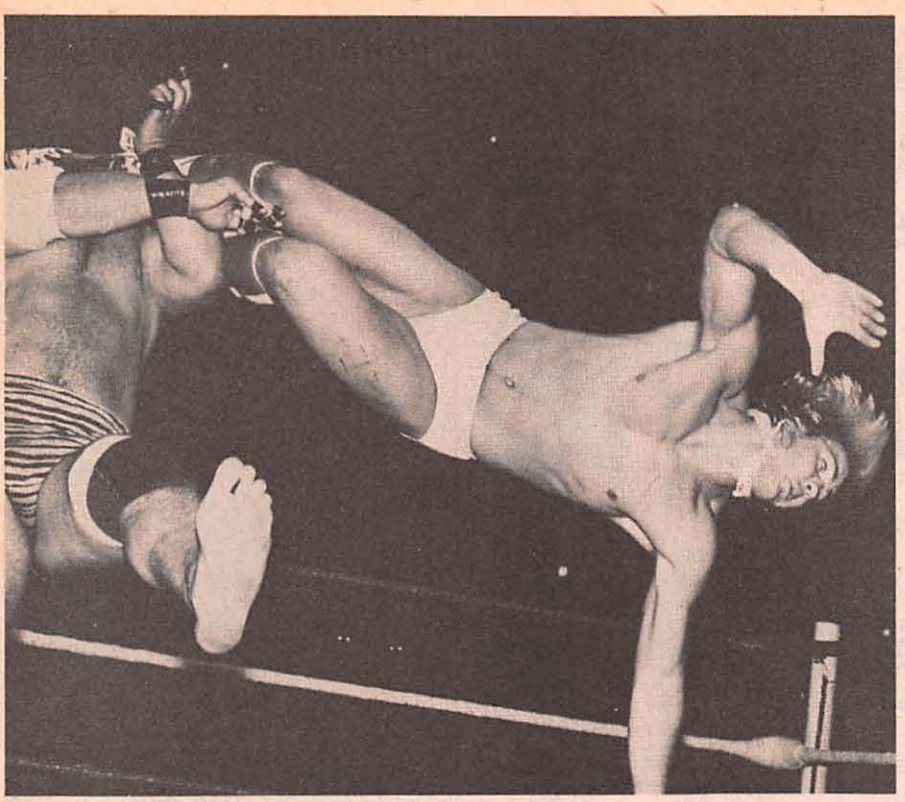
D.B. SHULTZ
Cape Coral, FL

Dear Mr. D.B. Shultz,
(To the tune of "Hey Jude"):
Dus—ty
You are so fat.
You take your trousers
To the tailor.
He looks up
And wonders what you have ate
To have your waist
Resemble Cleveland.

Dus—ty
You are no dream.
With your leg broke
You are a cripple.
You walk by
And cities shake in your wake
Too much damn cake,
Big Fat Dusty.

Dear Ellner,

Now that Barry Windham is back wrestling in Florida I think it's just a matter of time before he and Kendell capture the NWA tag team title from



He flies through the air/With the greatest of ease/That young Barry Windham/Whose fans are all sleaze. Barry has left the WWF to wrestle once again in the Florida area. Big deal.

the Koloffs. What's your misguided opinion on the subject?

PAUL HENRY
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Dear Henry,
As Barry comes marching home again
We shout: Who Cares?
As Barry comes marching home again
We scream: Who Cares?
He'll chase all the girls
who thinks he's a hit
But inside the ring
he's a pandering twit.
So let's all start yawning
When Barry comes marching home.

Dear Eddie Ellner,

Don't you think the wrestling fans have had enough of the Von Erichs fighting Chris Adams over and over again? And if you agree with me, why does *PWI* continue to make such a big issue over it?

MARK JO SHIMMERS
Ashburham, MA

Dear Mark Jo Shimmers,
The World Class area
may sit on the border
Where gun-toting marshals
enforced law and order;
But you can well bet
it would be on the skids
If it weren't for Mike,
Kevin, Kerry, and Fritz.

So Marky Jo if you still cannot fathom
Why the three milk and cookies
still battle Chris Adams;
It's the same reason why
our mag gives them encores
Even though to you
they've become simply big bores.

The reason is simple,
it's clear and concise
In any business you seek the big slice,
And believe it or not the fans pay to see
The feud between Chris,
Kevin, Mike and Kerry.

Dear Mr. Ellner,

I'm curious. What is the greatest match you have ever seen?

SUZANNE EMERICK
Atlantic City, NJ

Dear Ms. Emerick,

Sean and Madonna. Jessica Lange and Sam Shepard a close second. You and Godzilla a solid third, as Ellner continues to be oh so kind. □

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BETWEEN FALLS

(Continued from page 6)

A lot of fans, including correspondent Mike Davis, feel that Ric Flair should be stripped of his NWA World title for helping break Dusty Rhodes' ankle.

that! It is a sickening sight, and I hope Flair is stripped of the NWA World title. Will Dusty ever be able to wrestle again? If he does, there wil be a lot of dues paid to these three men.

MIKE DAVIS
Raleigh, NC

A MISSION FOR MAGNUM

An open letter to Magnum T.A.:

We think you are the best wrestler in the NWA. We are glad that you held the U.S. title at one time. If it weren't for Tully Blanchard, you would still have it. We think that you will kick his butt and win the belt back from that idiot. We also hope that you put him out of professional wrestling. And as for his stupid Perfect "0," we wish you could put her out in the streets where she used to make her living as a bag lady!

We think you should team up with someone like Terry Taylor or

(Continued on page 74)

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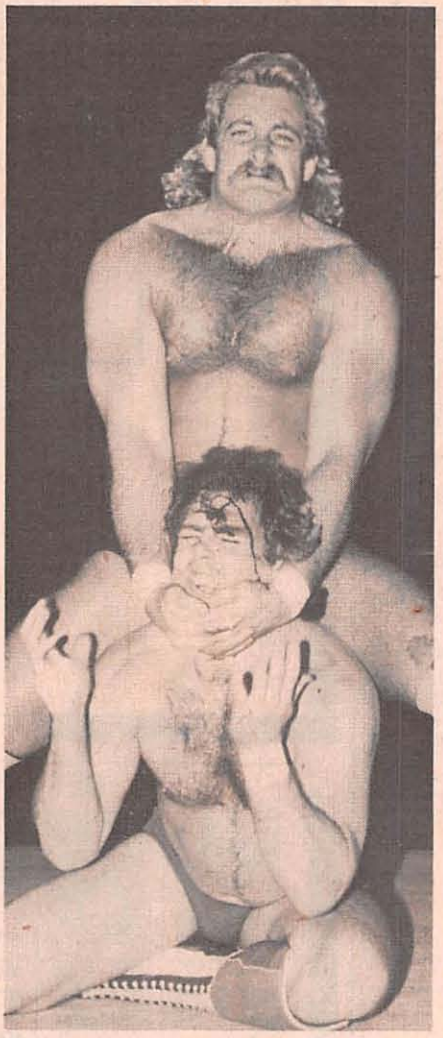

Blood spurts from an open wound in Tully Blanchard's forehead as Magnum T.A. applies the pressure. With the U.S. championship belt in Tully's possession, you can be sure that T.A. will not quickly give up in his campaign against professional wrestling's "Superbrat."

Dusty Rhodes and kick the pants off the stupid Andersons . . . especially Ole.

The reason you're the best wrestler in the NWA is because you so often beat your opponents in a matter of seconds. You would also beat Tully in a matter of seconds if it weren't for the Perfect "0."

We liked when when you came into one of Tully's matches as a cop and handcuffed "0" to the ropes and started beating up on Tully. We thought it was so funny, and we'd like to see you do that to Ric Flair. If you won't do *that* to Ric Flair, then at least put him out of professional wrestling.

PAUL ZAGRODNIK
RAY LAHNER
Cicero, IL

PHENOMENAL POFFO

Leapin' Lanny Poffo is one of the most exciting wrestlers in the sport today. Even though he's been wrestling for quite some time now, he always seems to amaze me with his acrobatic skills and his knowledge of gymnastics. Lanny is just phenomenal! When he's in the ring, he shows you his skills with his endless moves and lightning-fast speed. He's the kind of athlete that keeps the momentum flowing. He has a fantastic physique and is just awesome! There just aren't enough words to describe U.S.A.'s pride in this man.

And to top it off, this most incredible wrestler is the Edgar Allen Poe of the '80s! Lanny, if you're reading this, I wish you all the happiness and luck in my heart. You're simply phenomenal. And keep your poems coming!

CHRISTINE LaVAIR
Lake Clear, NY

WOMEN REFEREES? HOGWASH!

As a longtime reader and fan of your magazine, I read with interest Liz Hunter's "On Assignment" in the December 1985 issue of *PWI.*

Sure, Liz, women deserve equal rights, but a woman should not be a referee in a men's match. A referee should have the physical ability to separate the combatants, not just stand there and count as Lisa Marie did. Liz makes a point by saying the rulebook is "more powerful in scope and magnitude than the weight of every wrestler put together."

(Continued on page 76)

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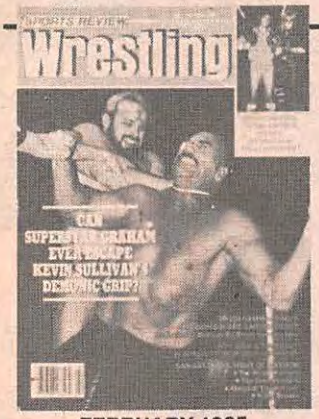

FEBRUARY 1985

March 1978/Cover stories: Andre-Flair, Mascaras. PLUS: Koloff, Rhodes, Inoki.

August 1979/Cover story: Bruno-Koloff. PLUS: Flair, Orndorff, Funk.

September 1979/Cover story: Flair-McDaniel. PLUS: Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

February 1980/Cover story: Rhodes-Funk. PLUS: Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

April 1980/Cover stories: Andre, Mulligan-Studd. PLUS: LeDuc, Lawler, Ladd.

May 1980/Cover stories: Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler. PLUS: Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Cover stories: Graham, Patera. PLUS: Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Cover story: Bruno-Graham. PLUS: Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Cover story: Hogan. PLUS: Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Cover story: Morales-Fuji. PLUS: Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

March 1981/Cover story: SPECIAL EDITION—Results of 1980 Fan Poll

April 1981/Cover story: Atlas. PLUS: Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Cover stories: Morales-Khan. PLUS: Lawler, Slater, Piper.

August 1981/Cover story: Freebirds. PLUS: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Brisco.

September 1981/Cover story: Backlund-Mosca. PLUS: Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

October 1981/Cover stories: Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen. PLUS: Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Cover story: Rhodes-DiBiase. PLUS: Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Cover story: Muraco-Morales. PLUS: Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Cover stories: Valentine, Brisco-Funk. PLUS: Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Cover stories: Spoiler, Idol-Hayes. PLUS: Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Cover story: Rich-Flair. PLUS: Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Cover stories: Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka. PLUS: Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Cover stories: Steamboat-Idol, Albano. PLUS: Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Cover stories: Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater. PLUS: Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

September 1982/Cover stories: Von Erich, Bockwinkel. PLUS: Mascaras, Hansen, Rhodes, Blassie.

October 1982/Cover story: Funk-Abdullah. PLUS: Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Cover story: Piper. PLUS: Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich.

December 1982/Cover stories: Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair. PLUS: Albano, Humperdink.

January 1983/Cover stories: Rich, McDaniel-Valentine. PLUS: Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Cover stories: Flair-Race, Morales-Rose. PLUS: Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Cover stories: Flair-Bass, Snuka. PLUS: Sullivan, Steamboat.

April 1983/Cover stories: Backlund-Graham, Briscos. PLUS: Rhodes, Hogan.

May 1983/Cover story: Muraco. PLUS: Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco.

June 1983/Cover stories: Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson. PLUS: Brody, Sullivan.

July 1983/Cover story: Valiant-Humperdink. PLUS: Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

APRIL 1985

October 1983/Cover stories: Martel-Valentine, Mulligan. PLUS: Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Cover stories: Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody. PLUS: Slater, Wrestling II, Backlund.

December 1983/Cover story: Windham-LeDuc. PLUS: Santana, Sullivan, Garvin, masked wrestlers.

January 1984/Cover stories: Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel. PLUS: Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Cover stories: Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen. PLUS: Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Cover story: Starrcade '83 featuring Flair, Steamboat & Youngblood, Piper-Valentine. PLUS: Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Cover stories: Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki. PLUS: Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/Cover stories: LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins. PLUS: The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Cover stories: Windham-Flair, Gilbert. PLUS: Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Gordy. PLUS: Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA Tag team tournament.

August 1984/Cover stories: Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes. PLUS: Zbyszko, Von Erich, The Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Cover stories: Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video. PLUS: Atlas, Spoiler, historic Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Cover story: Von Erich & Billy Jack. PLUS: Andre, Fabulous Ones, The Summer Wars!

December 1984/Cover stories: Rich-Gilbert, Martel. PLUS: Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class action weekend.

January 1985/Cover stories: Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund. PLUS: Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*.

February 1985/Cover stories: Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts. PLUS: Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Cover story: Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs. PLUS: 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich-Blackwell, Billy Haynes-Jesse Barr. PLUS: Hart, Irwins, 1985 in Pictures.

May 1985/Cover stories: Albano, Freebirds-Flair. PLUS: Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas closeup.

June 1985/Cover story: Pro Wrestling U.S.A. PLUS: Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches. PLUS: Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Cover stories: Flair vs. Nikita. PLUS: Orndorff, Slaughter, Haynes, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Cover stories: Adams vs. Von Erich, Orndorff. PLUS: Sawyer, Kamala, Barr, Atlanta action.

October 1985/Cover stories: Martel vs. Hayes, Richter. PLUS: Savage, Adams, Magnum T.A., Road Warriors.

November 1985/Cover stories: Freebirds vs. Warriors, Mid-South action. PLUS: Billy Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Cover stories: Hogan, Zbyszko vs. Martel. PLUS: Youngblood, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

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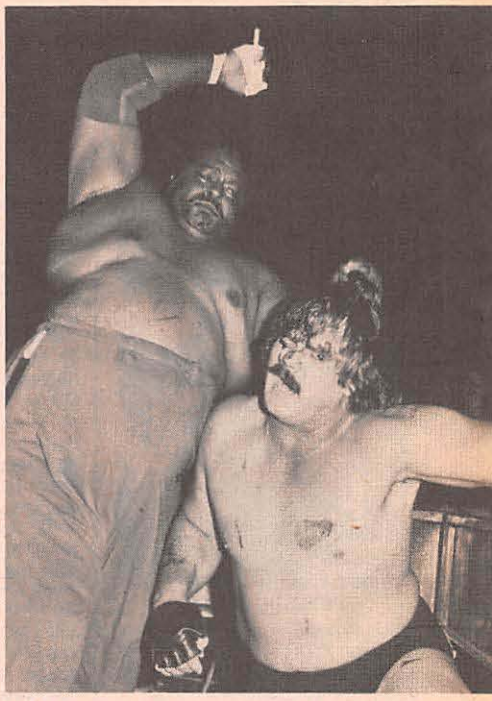
BETWEEN FALLS

(Continued from page 74)



Abdullah the Butcher prepares to bury his foreign object in the head of Blackjack Mulligan. No rulebook could possibly stop Abdullah's nightly orgy of bloody sadism.

Hogwash! How many times has the rulebook stopped Abdullah the Butcher from carving up someone's head? How many times has it stopped Ted DiBiase from loading his glove? Very few, Liz. Rules are broken every match, and you need a referee capable of stopping it.

In the Mid-South area, Tommy Gilbert and Carl Fergie (both wrestlers) handle the refereeing duties. Both can handle their jobs; Lisa Marie cannot. Maybe she should stick to officiating ladies' matches.

In my opinion, woman referees will go the way of the Susan B. Anthony dollars: far, far away.

JIMMY WILDE
Dibble, OK

KUDOS FOR ESPN

Having been a wrestling fan for several years, I am very impressed by the job that ESPN has done in bringing the AWA to the rest of the nation. They've presented the

show in a professional manner, offering exciting matches between top contenders, flashbacks of classic matches, and insightful blow-by-blow analysis without the same ridiculous mismatches or all of the Hollywood soap opera banality week after week. I am finally able to keep up on wrestling developments from my own part of the country instead of having to have the constant glamorous drone of Hulk Hogan, Roddy Piper, Cyndi Lauper, and Mr. T shoved down my throat every time I turn on the WWF.

ESPN must be commended for their hard-hitting, no-nonsense coverage of AWA wrestling. They have not only put together an enjoyable wrestling program, but have further worked toward trying to expand their image of being "The All-Sports Network." Thanks, ESPN, and keep up the good work.

SCOTT HARRISON
Bay City, MI ☐

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This special feature is for all fans who want to know who won and who lost . . . and how. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will print eyewitness reports from correspondents who attend the matches. If you'd like to have your correspondent report printed in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, send it to: *Arena Report; PWI, Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.*

WOODBOURNE AUDITORIUM (Ridgewood, NJ): **Ric Flair** defeated **Wahoo McDaniel** . . . **Tully Blanchard** defeated **Pez Whatley** . . . **Billy Jack Haynes** beat **Mike Davis** . . . **The Barbarian and Jake Roberts** wrestled to a double-disqualification . . . **Black Bart** defeated **Joel Deaton** . . . **Thunderfoot** beat **Chris Duffy.**

—Brian Sandholm

BOSTON GARDEN (Boston): **Hulk Hogan** pinned **King Kong Bundy** . . . **Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake** defeated **The Dynamite Kid & Davey Boy Smith** . . . **Barry Windham & S.D. Jones** defeated **Barry O & Iron Mike Sharpe** . . . **Terry Funk** defeated **Junkyard Dog** . . . **Randy Savage** defeated **Scott McGhee** . . . **Paul Orndorff** defeated **The Missing Link** . . . **David Sammartino** defeated **Tiger Chung Lee** . . . **Cpl. Kirschner** defeated **Rene Goulet** . . . **King Tonga** defeated **Mr. X.**

—Jared Maxwell

CAPITAL CENTRE (Landover, MD): **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Big John Studd** by countout . . . **Magnificent Muraco** edged **Rick Steamboat** via disqualification . . . **Tito Santana** dispatched **The Spoiler** . . . **Brett Hart & Jim Neidhardt** beat **B. Brian Blair & Jim Brunzell** . . . **Cpl. Kirschner** defeated **Moondog Spot** . . . **Nikolai Volkoff** beat **Jose Luis Rivera** . . . **S.D. Jones** defeated **Terry Gibbs** . . . **Adrian Adonis** conquered **Rick McGraw** . . . **Leapin' Lanny Poffo** topped **Barry O** . . . **Spider Lady** defeated **Susan Starr.**

—Erik Sander

OHIO STATE FAIRGROUNDS (Columbus, OH): **Hulk Hogan** toppled **Big John Studd** . . . **Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo** defeated **Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake** . . . **Tony Atlas** outmuscled **Magnificent Muraco** . . . **Paul Orndorff** edged **The Iron Sheik** by disqualification . . . **Junkyard Dog** beat **Les Thornton** . . . **The Missing Link** defeated **S.D. Jones.**

—Kirk Hunter

THE MYRIAD (Oklahoma City, OK): **Jake Roberts & Hacksaw Duggan** defeated **Humongous & The Nightmare** . . . **Butch Reed** beat **Dick Murdoch** . . . **The Midnight Rider** crunched **Skandor Akbar** in a loser-leaves-town match . . . **Ted DiBiase** defeated **Bruiser Bob Sweetan** . . . **Mark Lewin** defeated **Iceman King Parsons** . . . **Wendell Cooley & Al Perez** outlasted **El Corsario & Dutch Mantel** . . . **Eddie Gilbert** defeated **Bobby Fulton** . . . **Tommy Rogers** upended **Dutch Mantel** . . . **Dick Slater** defeated **Steve Constant** . . . **Steve "Dr. Death" Williams** absorbed **Nick Patrick.**

—Travis Robinson

OAKLAND COLISEUM (Oakland, CA): **Uncle Elmer & Hillbilly Jim** defeated **The Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff** . . . **Cowboy Bob Orton** lassoed **Leapin' Lanny Poffo** . . . **Andre the Giant** defeated **King Kong Bundy** by countout . . . **Les Thornton** defeated **Jose Luis Rivera** . . . **Brutus Beefcake & Greg Valentine** abolished **Mike Rotundo & Mr. Wrestling II** . . . **Adrian Adonis** defeated **Steve Gatorwolf.**

—John Arnolfo

KEMPER ARENA (Kansas City, MO): **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Big John Studd** by countout . . . **Mike Rotundo, Capt. Lou Albano, & Tony Atlas** trounced **Brutus Beefcake, Greg Valentine, & Luscious Johnny Valiant** . . . **Uncle Elmer** defeated **Rene Goulet** . . . **The Dynamite Kid** beat **Brett Hart** . . . **Jim Neidhardt** defeated **Davey Boy Smith** . . . **Cpl. Kirschner** defeated **Barry O** . . . **Scott McGhee** drew with **The Spoiler.**

—Mark Glover

GLENS FALLS CIVIC CENTER (Glens Falls, NY): **Rick Steamboat** defeated **Magnificent Muraco** by disqualification . . . **Tito Santana** toppled **Randy Savage** . . . **Brett Hart & Jim Neidhardt** defeated **B. Brian Blair & Jim Brunzell** . . . **Cpl. Kirschner** tamed **Moondog Spot** . . **Scott McGhee** defeated **Tiger Chung Lee** . . . **Les Thorn-**

ton drew with **Leapin' Lanny Poffo** . . . **Rick McGraw** defeated **A.J. Petruzzi.**

—Joe Murphy

HUTCHINS MEMORIAL (Ponca City, OK): **Kevin Von Erich** defeated **Chris Adams** . . . **Kelly Kiniski** hammered **Mike Reed** . . . **Iceman Parsons** defeated **Hollywood Johnny Tatum** . . . **Scott Casey** defeated **Killer Tim Brooks.**

—Lori Powell

GOLDEN NUGGET HOTEL (Atlantic City, NJ): **Hulk Hogan** beat **Mr. Fuji** . . . **Big John Studd** defeated **Paul Orndorff** . . . **Cpl. Kirschner** defeated **Bob Bradley** . . . **Barry O** defeated **Tony Garea** . . . **Uncle Elmer** defeated **Terry Gibbs** . . . **Mr. X** defeated **Salvatore Bellomo.**

—Bernie Barker

HARA ARENA (Dayton, OH): **Junkyard Dog & Mike Rotundo** defeated **Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake** by disqualification . . . **Cpl. Kirschner** defeated **Barry O** . . . **Davey Boy Smith & Dynamite Kid** beat **Brett Hart & Jim Neidhardt** . . . **Scott McGhee** defeated **Rene Goulet** . . . **The Spoiler** defeated **Bobby Colt** . . . **Lanny Poffo** beat **Tiger Chung Lee.**

—Shawn Stidham

McNICHOLS ARENA (Denver): **Andre the Giant** defeated **King Kong Bundy** by disqualification . . . **Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake** defeated **Mike Rotundo & Mr. Wrestling II** . . . **Uncle Elmer & Hillbilly Jim** defeated **The Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff** . . . **Bob Orton** defeated **Lanny Poffo** . . . **Adrian Adonis** defeated **Steve Gatorwolf** . . . **Les Thorton** beat **Jose Luis Rivera.**

—Michael Lavoie

THE OMNI (Atlanta): **Magnum T.A., Ronnie Garvin, & Wahoo McDaniel** defeated **Tully Blanchard, Ole Anderson, & Gene Anderson** in a bunkhouse match . . . **Terry Taylor** defeated **Buddy Landell** . . . **Rick Morton & Robert Gibson** defeated **Konga the Barbarian & Abdullah the Butcher** by disqualification . . . **Jimmy Valiant** defeated **Bobby Eaton** . . . **Superstar Graham** defeated **Sam Houston** . . . **Dennis Condrey** defeated **Rocky King** . . . **Thunderfoot** defeated **The Italian Stallion.**

—Steve Hendrix

JOE LOUIS ARENA (Detroit): **Paul Orndorff** defeated **Roddy Piper** by disqualification . . . **Junkyard Dog** defeated **Cowboy Bob Orton** . . . **Jim Neidhardt & Brett Hart** beat **The British Bulldogs** . . . **Tony Atlas** defeated **Adrian Adonis** . . . **Randy Savage** beat **Scott McGhee** . . . **Pedro Morales** defeated **Les Thornton** . . . **David Sammartino** defeated **Tiger Chung Lee** . . . **Lanny Poffo** defeated **Moondog Spot.**

—Doug Hendricks

MAPLE LEAF GARDENS (Toronto): **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Randy Savage** . . . **Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake** beat **Dynamite Kid & Davey Boy Smith** . . . **Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff** defeated **Cpl. Kirschner & George Steele** . . . **Terry Funk** beat **Steve Gatorwolf** . . . **Iron Mike Sharpe** defeated **S.D. Jones** . . . **Scott McGhee** beat **Barry O** . . . **Dino Bravo** defeated **Mr. X** . . . **Tony Parisi** defeated **Rene Goulet.**

—Peter Jones

CLEVELAND CONVENTION CENTER (Cleveland): **The Koloffs & Krusher Khrushchev** defeated **Manny Fernandez, Jimmy Valiant, & The Italian Stallion** . . . **Black Bart** defeated **Terry Taylor** . . . **The Midnight Express** beat **Brett & Buzz Sawyer** . . . **Pez Whatley** defeated **Mike Davis.**

—Kevin Blair

RECAP: **King Kong Bundy** took on the WWF's big boys—**Hulk Hogan** and **Andre the Giant**—and lost each time . . . **The British Bulldogs** got their first crack at **Brutus Beefcake & Greg Valentine's** WWF tag team belts, but came up empty . . . **Terry Taylor** has looked impressive . . . **Cpl. Kirschner & George Steele** teamed up, with disastrous results . . . **The Killer Bees** may have lost their sting . . . **Brett & Buzz Sawyer** have seen better days . . . *Upset Of The Month:* **Hillbilly Jim & Uncle Elmer** defeating **Sheik & Volkoff.** □

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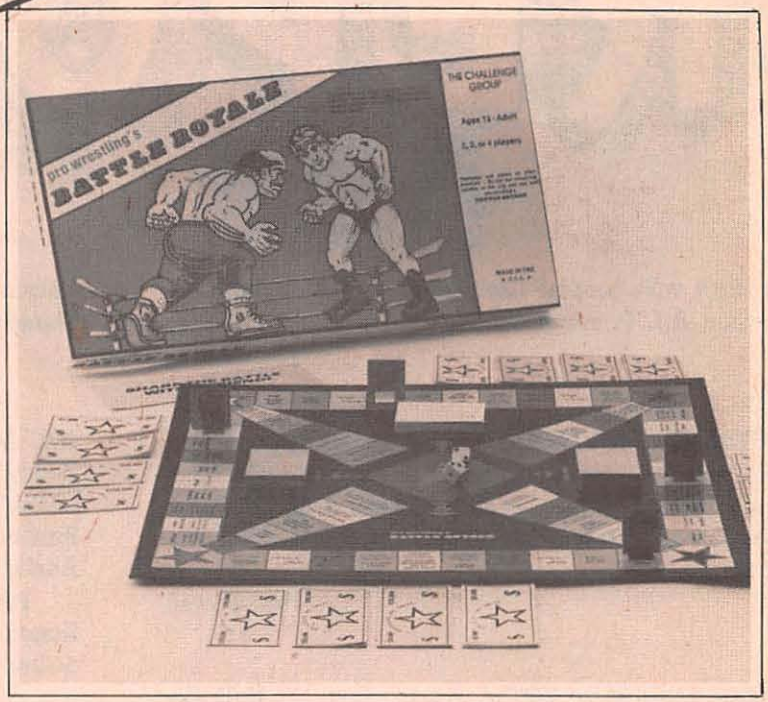

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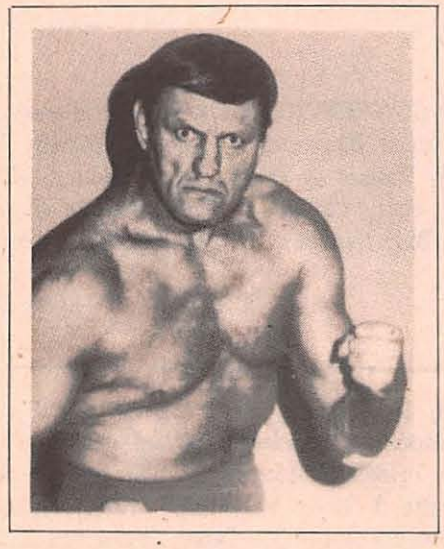

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PWINDEX

Your Wrestler-By-Wrestler Guide to the Previous Year Of Pro Wrestling Illustrated

Compiled by Craig Peters

NOTES ON USING THIS INDEX:

*THIS INDEX COVERS the issues of **Pro Wrestling Illustrated** cover-dated April 1985 through February 1986; along with the March 1986 issue you hold in your hands you now possess a complete guide to one year's worth of **Pro Wrestling Illustrated** magazine.*

Wrestlers are listed alphabetically, with stories and columns listed chronologically within each wrester's category (and alphabetically again if there is more than one entry in a particular month).

Only stories and columns where a wrestler is a major subject are indexed. For example, Precious may be quoted in a Jim Garvin story, but unless she is a major focal point of that story it will not be indexed under her name.

Non-wrestlers who have been the major subject of a story or a column (examples: boxer Joe Frazier, due to his involvement in Starrcade '84, or television reporter John Stossel, due to being slapped in the head by David Shultz) are included in this index.

"In Focus," "Ratings Analysis," "Ringside," and "Wrestling Enquirer" are indexed according to the wrestlers who are the main subjects of major items within those columns. Very brief or passing mentions of particular wrestlers in those columns, or very small items mentioning specific wrestlers, have not been indexed. Items in those columns dealing with a general issue or an event rather than an individual wrestler have not been indexed.

"Arena Reports" have not been indexed.

Letters printed in "Between Falls" and "Off The Top Rope" that deal primarily with one wrestler have been indexed; letters naming a dozen wrestlers, or dealing with a general issue or an event rather than an individual wrestler, have not been indexed.

Columns such as "On Assignment" or "King's Court" that deal with general issues or events rather than individual wrestlers have not been indexed.

A few words on tag teams: Remember that the index listing depends on the nature of the story. For example, a story on The Fabulous Ones will be listed under "Fabulous Ones," but not under individual listings for "Keirn, Steve" or "Lane, Stan." Similarly, a story that revolves around only one member of the team will be listed under that wrestler's name, but not the team name.

Where a tag team is better known by the names of the wrestlers (Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo, or Steve Williams & Ted DiBiase) rather than an all-encompassing name (The Fantastics or The Rock 'n' Roll Express), the listing will be repeated twice, under the specific names of both wrestlers.

We hope you find this index to be a useful and interesting reference tool, as well as a lot of fun in looking back on the past year in wrestling. We eagerly await your reactions and comments.

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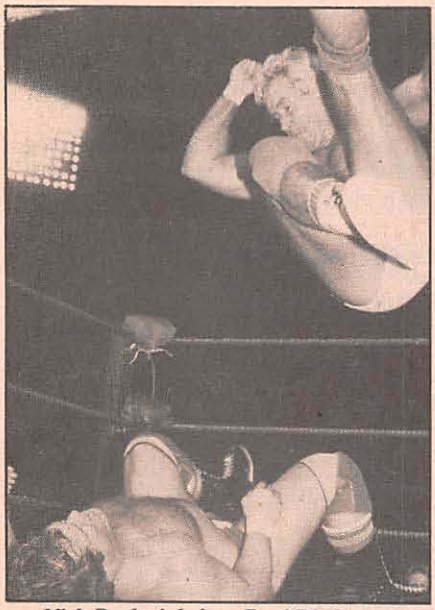

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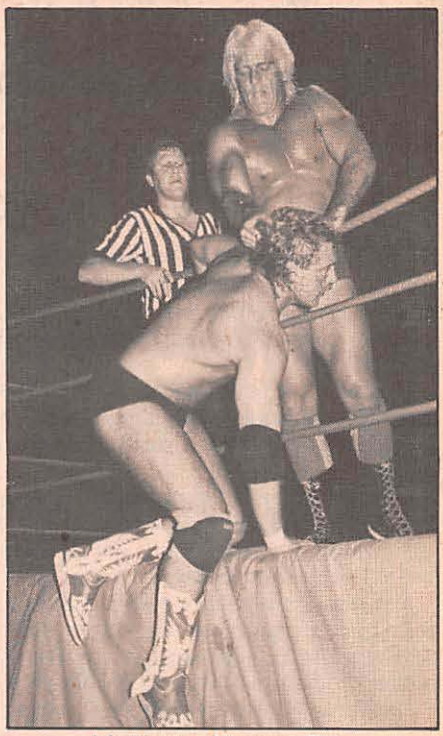

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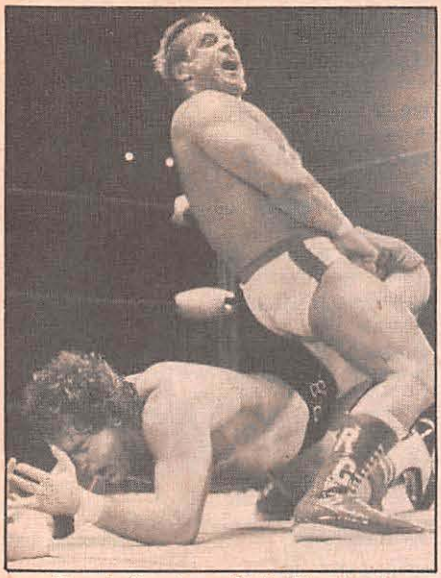

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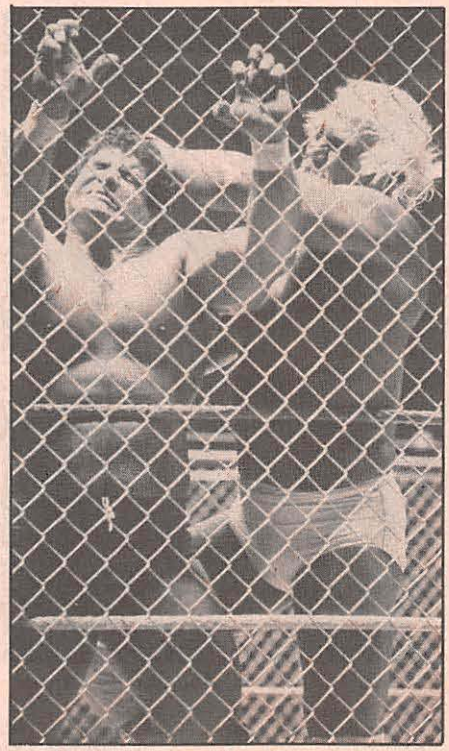

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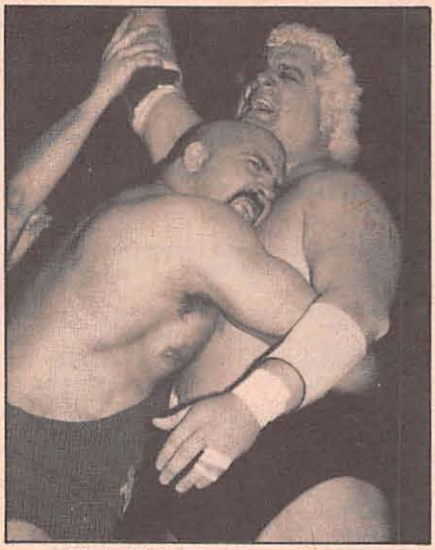

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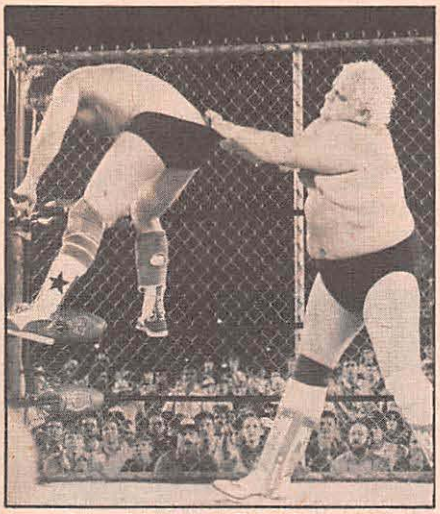

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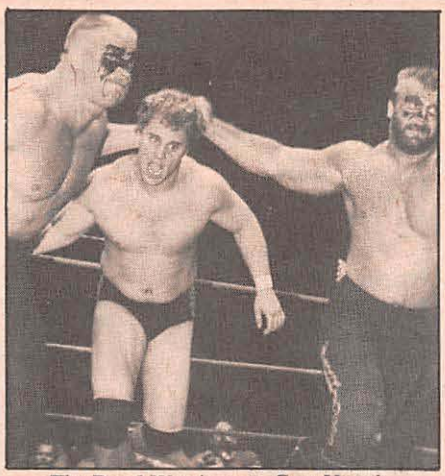

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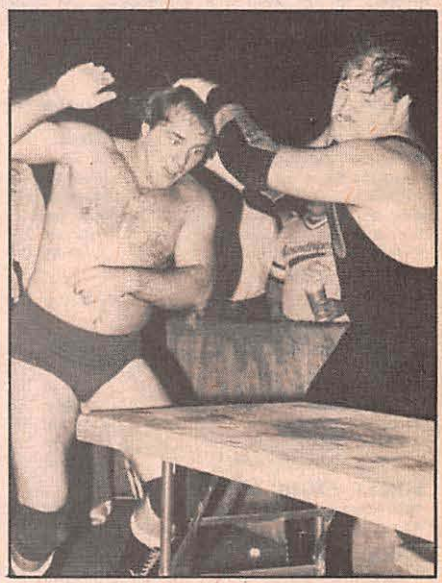

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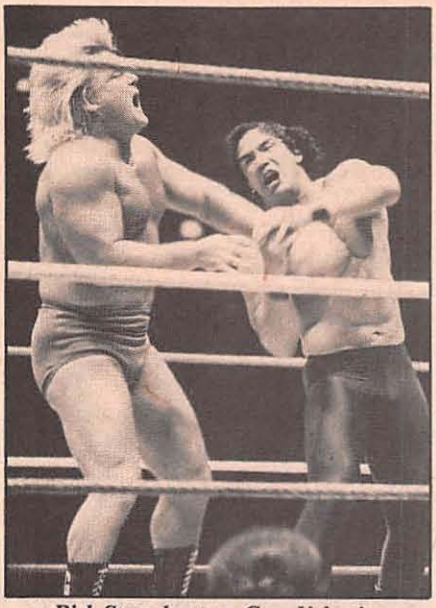

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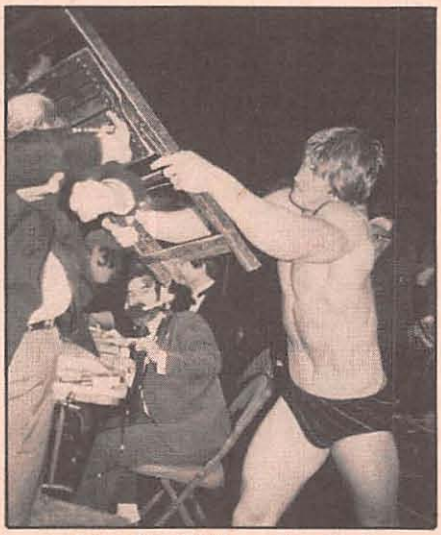

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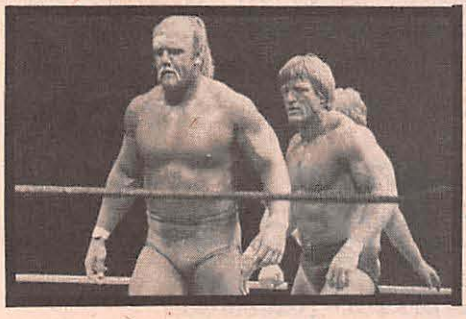
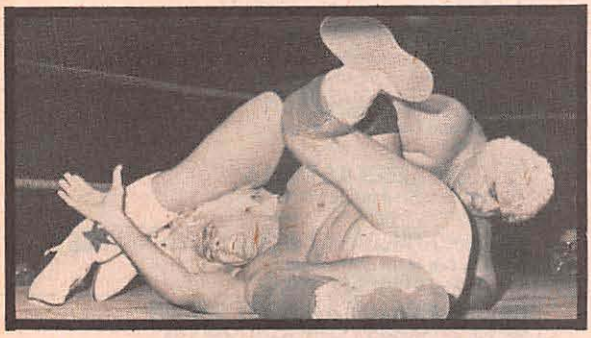
THIS MONTH IN...

The Wrestler



HULK HOGAN'S trust pays off: "**PAUL ORNDORFF** is the best partner I've ever had!"



It's a STARBLAZE! Read all about the burning hatred between **DUSTY RHODES** and **RIC FLAIR**

PLUS . . .

GINO HERNANDEZ and **CHRIS ADAMS** are shaved bald—shame on you, **VON ERICHS**! . . . The noose tightens on the AWA as **STAN HANSEN** violently moves up the ladder of contention . . . Rare praise from **BRUISER BRODY:** "**BOBBY JAGGERS** earned my respect!" . . . Introducing **SCOTT HALL** . . . Candid photos of your favorite stars "Beyond The Squared Circle"

All this and much more . . .
in the February 1986 issue of
The Wrestler

ON SALE NOW!

Inside Wrestling

• SPECIAL INVESTIGATION: NWA, AWA, AND WWF WORLD TAG TITLES IN TURMOIL! •

Victims of circumstance or conspiracy? Three former championship teams face the battles of their lives:

• THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS: Did NWA officials turn their backs on them?

• THE ROAD WARRIORS: Were they getting too big for the AWA?

• IRON SHEIK and **NIKOLAI VOLKOFF:** Did the WWF cave in to international pressures?

PLUS . . .

Special feature: **BLACKJACK MULLIGAN** compares his sons **KENDELL WINDHAM** and **BARRY WINDHAM** . . . An exlusive "Hotseat" interview with **MIKE VON ERICH** . . . **DUSTY RHODES** and **RIC FLAIR** face off "One on One"

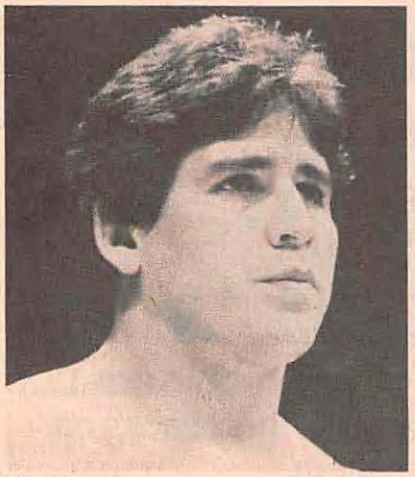
All this and much more . . .
in the February 1986 issue of
Inside Wrestling

ON SALE NOW!

PRO T.V. SPORTS Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

PWI's Top 10 is based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.

PWI's TOP 10



Tito Santana

SINGLES

1. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   NWA World champion
2. **RICK MARTEL**
   236, Quebec City, Quebec
   AWA World champion
3. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   WWF World champion
4. **TITO SANTANA**
   245, Mission, TX
   WWF Intercontinental champion
5. **TERRY TAYLOR**
   225, Vero Beach, FL
   National heavyweight champion
6. **TULLY BLANCHARD**
   235, San Antonio, TX
   U.S. heavyweight champion
7. **RICK STEAMBOAT**
   238, Honolulu, HI
   No. 4 contender to WWF World title
8. **MAGNUM T.A.**
   245, Chesapeake, VA
   No. 4 contender to NWA World title
9. **NIKITA KOLOFF**
   275, Moscow, Russia
   No. 5 contender to NWA World title
10. **KERRY VON ERICH**
    260, Denton, TX
    No. 3 contender to NWA World title

TAG TEAMS

1. **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
   No. 1 contenders to AWA and NWA World tag team titles
   Combined weight: 567 pounds
2. **IVAN & NIKITA KOLOFF**
   NWA World tag team champions
   Combined weight: 524 pounds
3. **GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
   WWF World tag team champions
   Combined weight: 511 pounds
4. **JIM GARVIN & STEVE REGAL**
   AWA World tag team champions
   Combined weight: 473 pounds
5. **CHRIS ADAMS & GINO HERNANDEZ**
   No. 1 contenders to World Class tag team title
   Combined weight: 454 pounds
6. **OLE & ARN ANDERSON**
   National tag team champions
   Combined weight: 525 pounds
7. **STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**
   Mid-Southern tag team champions
   Combined weight: 479 pounds
8. **WAHOO McDANIEL & BILLY JACK HAYNES**
   U.S. tag team champions
   Combined weight: 505 pounds
9. **RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**
   No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
   Combined weight: 453 pounds
10. **AL PEREZ & WENDELL COOLEY**
    Mid-South tag team champions
    Combined weight: 451 pounds

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to the regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current position of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings). Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
2—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
3—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
4—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
5—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
6—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
7—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
8—**HARLEY RACE**
253, Kansas City, MO
9—**LANCE VON ERICH**
245, Dallas
10—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN

AWA

World Champion:
RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

1—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
2—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
3—**STAN HANSEN**
322, Borger, TX
4—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
5—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA
6—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
7—**SCOTT HALL**
263, Minneapolis, MN
8—**BORIS ZUKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia
9—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
10—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

1—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
2—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HA
3—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland
4—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
5—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
6—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
7—**TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX
8—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
9—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
505, Grenoble, France
10—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

1—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
2—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
4—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
5—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
6—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
7—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY
8—**SAM HOUSTON**
218, Waco, TX
9—**SUPERSTAR GRAHAM**
260, Paradise Valley, AZ
10—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

For period ended November 6, 1985

WORLD CLASS

1—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
2—**BRIAN ADIDAS**
238, Denton, TX
3—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM.
4—**GINO HERNANDEZ**
224, Houston, TX
5—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
242, St. Louis, MO
6—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
7—**LANCE VON ERICH**
245, Dallas
8—**CHRIS ADAMS**
230, Stratford, England
9—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
10—**KABUKI**
252, Singapore

MID-SOUTH

1—**BUTCH REED**
265, Kansas City, MO
2—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
3—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
4—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
5—**JAKE ROBERTS**
243, Baton Rouge, LA
6—**HUMONGOUS**
318, parts unknown
7—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
295, Tulsa, OK
8—**DICK MURDOCH**
270, Waxahachie, TX
9—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL
10—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN

FLORIDA

1—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
2—**KENDELL WINDHAM**
220, Sweetwater, TX
3—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
239, Boston, MA
4—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
5—**MIKE GRAHAM**
229, Tampa, FL
6—**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**
310, Sweetwater, TX
7—**BOB ROOP**
273, Tampa, FL
8—**LARRY LUGER**
280, Chicago
9—**JACK HART**
230, St. Petersburg, FL
10—**PRINCE IAUKEA**
240, Honolulu, Hawaii

MID-SOUTHERN

1—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
2—**HARLEY RACE**
253, Kansas City, MO
3—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
4—**STEVE KEIRN**
220, Tampa, FL
5—**KOKO WARE**
229, Union City, TN
6—**PHIL HICKERSON**
238, Jackson, TN
7—**STAN LANE**
219, Del Ray, Florida
8—**TARRAS BULBA**
237, Outer Mongolia
9—**TOJO YAMAMOTO**
230, Tokyo, Japan
10—**LORD JONATHAN BOYD**
255, Aucklund, New Zealand

CONTINENTAL

1—**THE FLAME**
305, parts unknown
2—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
227, South Wales
3—**TOMMY RICH**
238, Hendersonville, TN
4—**JIMMY GOLDEN**
234, Montgomery, AL
5—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
6—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
7—**ROBERTO SOTO**
231, San Juan, Puerto Rico
8—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
9—**BILL ASH**
224, Paris, AK
10—**ROY WELCH**
224, Tampa, FL

NORTHWEST

1—**LANCE VON ERICH**
245, Dallas
2—**BOBBY JAGGERS**
265, Dunlap, KS
3—**MIKE MILLER**
260, Memphis, TN
4—**TOM ZENK**
237, Robbinsdale, MN
5—**STEVE SIMPSON**
220, Africa
6—**MOONDOG MORETTI**
245, Boise, ID
7—**MEGA MAHARISHI**
260, Portland, OR
8—**SCOTT DORING**
270, Minneapolis, MN
9—**STEVE PARDEE**
232, San Mateo, CA
10—**CHRIS COLT**
230, San Fransisco, CA

MOST POPULAR

1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
2—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
4—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
5—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec
6—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
7—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
8—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, New York
9—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
10—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC

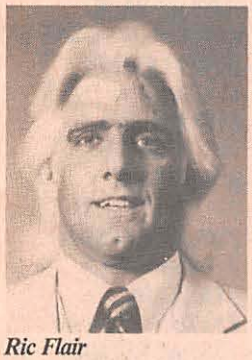
MOST HATED

1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis
2—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
3—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
4—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
5—**CHRIS ADAMS**
230, Stratford, England
6—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
7—**OLE ANDERSON**
256, Minneapolis, MN
8—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
276, Moscow, Russia
9—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
10—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

The year in review: This being the year-end awards issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* we felt it would be appropriate to examine where some of the Achievement '85 award recipients stood in the ratings over the past 12 months.



Ric Flair

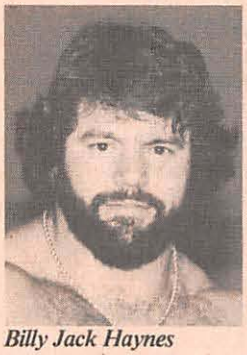
Ric Flair: 1985's Wrestler of the Year maintained a solid hold on the number one spot in the *PWI* Top 10 over the past year. Since Flair maintained his hold on the NWA World title all year, his rating as the top man in the NWA, of course, did not change. But Flair's ranking in either the Most Popular or Most Hated ratings *did* change radically this year: In our April 1985 issue, Flair was ranked number nine in the Most Popular category. This issue, Flair becomes the number one Most Hated man in the sport as the direct result of his aiding Ole and Arn Anderson in breaking Dusty Rhodes' ankle. Had this incident occurred one month earlier, it might well have affected Flair's finish as Wrestler of the Year. Indeed, many letters have arrived at the offices of *PWI* from fans saying that they would like to withdraw their votes for the NWA champion. Once the votes are submitted, however, they cannot be altered.

Hulk Hogan: 1985's Most Popular Wrestler of the Year has, appropriately enough, been ranked number one in the Most Popular ratings ever since our September 1985 issue. Prior to that (reviewing the issues back to our April 1985 edition), Hogan was ranked number two in the most popular ratings for four months (May 1985 through August 1985), and began the year in our April 1985 issue ranked in the number three spot in that category. But perhaps the most significant ratings achievement for Hogan over the past year is the upgrading of his WWF championship (and the WWF tag team championship) to world title status, a change in our ratings that still continues to draw an enormous amount of mail, pro and con.

Roddy Piper: 1985's Most Hated Wrestler of the Year has done quite well in that ratings category of ignominy. In the 12 months since our April 1985 issue (including this month), Piper has been rated number one in the Most Hated ratings five times, number two four times (which is where Piper began the year in our April 1985 issue), and number three once (May 1985). In our January 1986 issue, Piper dropped to number five Most Hated, and in the June 1985 issue he wasn't ranked in that category at all.

The Barbarian: 1985's Rookie of the Year was not ranked at all in our April 1985 issue, and—believe it or not—didn't crack the ratings until last month! In our February 1986 issue, The Barbarian was ranked number seven in the Mid-South area. The main reason for the lack of ratings success of The Barbarian is not a lack of ring success. Rather, Barbarian spent much of the year in tag team competition with his partner, Jake Roberts. It was only after Barbarian and Roberts split and Barbarian began to devote himself mainly to singles competition that he began to be seriously considered for the Mid-South singles ratings. But The Barbarian is once again out of the ratings this issue—he's left the Mid-South and should be competing in the AWA by the time you read this. We expect Barbarian to rocket up the AWA ratings before long.

Recent ratings developments: It takes more than the loss of their AWA tag team title to dislodge **The Road Warriors** from their number one tag team ranking. They retain the position they've enjoyed in our ratings since our January 1985 issue. Currently, The Warriors are the number one contenders to *both* the NWA and the AWA belts, and no one except The Legion of Doom themselves is sure which crown they'll go after first . . . The emergence of **Lance Von Erich** (who had been wrestling under the name of **Ricky Vaughn**) in the World Class area has created a sensation all over the country, especially in our ratings page. Lance will remain in the number one spot in the Northwest ratings since he continues to defend the Pacific Northwest heavyweight title that he has held Since August 3, 1985. And his recent go-rounds against **Ric Flair** in Texas have vaulted him into the number nine spot in the NWA and number seven in the World Class ratings, leaving him right behind his cousins **Kerry** and **Kevin.**



Billy Jack Haynes

Should **Mike Von Erich** return to the ring and be able to crack the ratings, there would be *four* Von Erichs in the World Class ratings, which would no doubt recall for many of the Von Erich fans those glory days when **David** was still alive! . . . **Billy Jack Haynes** is not to be found in the Florida ratings, although he contunues to hold the U.S. tag team title with **Wahoo McDaniel,** a title defended primarily in the Florida region. The reason? In what has come as no surprise, Haynes is on the road again. The man of many names is wrestling in the World Championship region, and has thus far attained a number 10 ranking there. He returns to Florida only to defend the tag team belts with McDaniel.

The address for mail: We welcome your comments, criticisms, and questions about our ratings system. Send all your correspondence to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* Box 48; Rockville Centre, New York 11571. □

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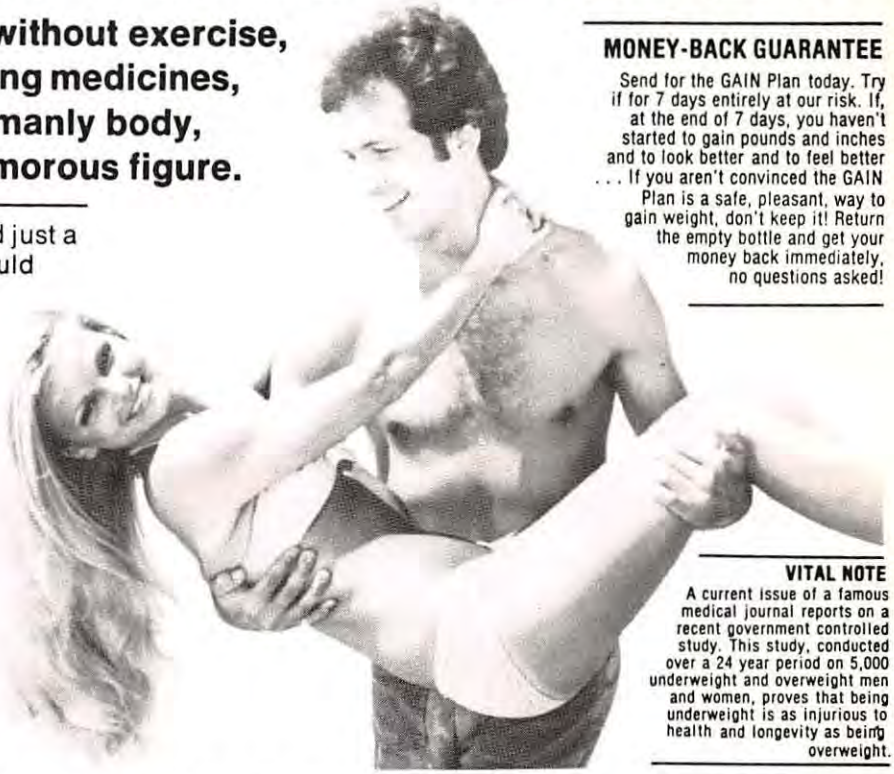

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